Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-161 *22 August 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

GRANMA Sees 'Imminent' Attack on Panama *[Havana TV]* 1
Panamanian Envoy Interviewed *[Havana TV]* 4
Commentary Views UN Resolution on Puerto Rico *[Havana Radio]* 4
UN Asked To Prevent S. Africa 'Maneuvers' *[Havana Radio]* 4
Relatives of Soldiers Killed in Angola Notified *[Havana TV]* 5
Over 300 Internationalists Return From Angola *[Havana Radio]* 5
Castro Meets With Colombian Trade Delegation *[Havana TV]* 5
Malmierca Concludes 5-Day Visit to Egypt *[Havana Radio]* 5
Quick Response Praised in Guantanamo Train Wreck *[Havana TV]* 6

Grenada

Blaize Accuses Opposition of 'Dirty' Campaigning *[CANA]* 6

Haiti

Avril in Petit Goave Vows To 'Fix Everything' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Press Comments on U.S. Company Contract, Aid *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
MIDH's Bazin Discusses Economic Problems *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
CEP Meets With Grande Anse Representatives *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Ends Tour, Comments on Elections *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Conacom Congress Ends, Issues 9-Point Resolution *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Further on Resolution *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Jean-Rabel Council Discusses Peasants' Problems *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 11
Explosion Shakes MOP President's Residence *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
PDCH Urges Formation of Vigilance Brigade *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
People Asked To Organize Against 'Sans Mamans' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Casec Members Charge Cabaret Magistrate Corrupt *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Trade Union Attends Paraguay Rights Conference *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Government Authorizes Free Zone in Northeast *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Justice Department, Other Appointments Announced *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

VOA Terminates Contract With Local Station *[LA REPUBLICA 11 Aug]* 14
Latest Election Poll Shows PUSC Leading PLN *[LA NACION 30 Jul]* 14

El Salvador

No Response From Cristiani on FMLN Proposal *[ACAN]* 15
D'Aubuisson Discusses 'Opposition' to ARENA *[San Salvador TV]* 15
Rivera y Damas on Human Rights, Dialogue *[ACAN]* 22
FMLN Issues Communique on Dialogue Proposal *[San Salvador Radio]* 23
Armed Forces Comment on FMLN's New Missiles *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 17 Aug]* 23
Captured Subversive Reveals Urban Commando Plans *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 15 Aug]* 24

Buses To Provide Service Despite FMLN Threats *[EL MUNDO 15 Aug]* 24
Rebels Seize Church, Demand Medical Attention *[Hamburg DPA]* 25
Workers Advocate Creation of Single Front *[San Salvador TV]* 26
Rebel Radio Airs 15, 17 Aug Battle Reports *[Radio Venceremos]* 26
FMLN Ambush, Electricity Sabotage Reported *[Radio Venceremos]* 27

Guatemala

Army Kills Nine Peasants by Mistake 17 Aug *[ACAN]* 27
Police Report 3 Killed in Guerrilla Attacks *[PRENSA LIBRE 16 Aug]* 28
Sister of GAM Leader Ordon Camey Abducted *[PRENSA LIBRE 17 Aug]* 28
Wave of Violence Claims 5 Lives, Injures Many *[ACAN]* 28

Honduras

Nicaraguan Extradition Request of Pilot Rejected *[EL HERALDO 17 Aug]* 29
FRG Vice Chancellor Visits, Supports Tela *[LA TRIBUNA 16 Aug]* 29
Violence During University Student Elections *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 30

Nicaragua

Leftist Parties Request Continuation of Dialogue *[Hamburg DPA]* 31
Relatives Claim 6,000 Political Prisoners Exist *[AFP]* 31
Ortega To Release 150 Nueva Guinea Peasants *[Managua Radio]* 32
Army Officer on Cease-Fire, Tela Agreements *[Managua Radio]* 32
Visiting FRG Official Comments on Elections *[Managua TV]* 32
Center Party Leader Views Electoral Prospects *[Managua Radio]* 32
UNO Spokesman on Party Candidates, Contras *[Managua Radio]* 33

Panama

Continued Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Maneuvers 34
Solis: No One To Be Saved *[Hamburg DPA]* 34
More From Solis on Situation *[Panama City TV]* 34
Commando Warns of Reprisals *[MATUTINO 21 Aug]* 35
Ritter Says No Justification *[Panama City TV]* 35
CODEHUCA Communique Denounces U.S. Acts *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 20 Aug]* 36
Government Maneuvers During Negotiations 36
Espino on Possible Power Vacuum *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 20 Aug]* 36
Ritter Announces Proposed Junta *[ACAN]* 37
Continued Reportage at End of Tripartite Dialogue 37
'Pessimistic' Atmosphere Prevails *[ACAN]* 37
OAS-Sponsored Talks End *[ACAN]* 38
No Agreement at Conclusion *[Panama City Radio]* 38
Cordovez Hopes for Solution *[ACAN]* 40
Supreme Court Ruling on RPC Appeal *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 20 Aug]* 40
Taiwan Consulate in Colon Given Upgrade *[Panama City TV]* 42

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem To Speak at UN, Hold Talks With Bush *[DYN]* 43
Menem Comments on Falklands Talks, Other Issues *[TELAM]* 43
Attorney General Tenders Resignation *[LA PRENSA 21 Aug]* 43
New Law Allows Illegal TV, Radio Stations *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 43

Bolivia

Paz Zamora To Address UNGA on 28 Sep *[La Paz Radio]* 44

Brazil

Official Discusses Trade Relations With U. S. *[Brasilia Radio]* 44
Saudi Arabia To Purchase 318 Osorio Tanks *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 20 Aug]* 44
Debt Payments to Paris Club 'Regularized' *[O GLOBO 18 Aug]* 45
Phones Interconnect With Paraguayan Towns *[Brasilia Radio]* 45

Chile

Pinochet Blames Rights Groups for Terrorism *[Santiago Radio]* 45
More on Attack at Tobalaba *[Santiago Radio]* 45
Army Issues Communique *[Santiago Radio]* 46
Aylwin Pledges To Abrogate Laws If Elected *[Santiago Radio]* 46
Teitelboim Reaffirms Support for Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 46
Supreme Court Acquits Four Communist Leaders *[Santiago Radio]* 47
Constitutional Amendments Law Published *[Santiago Radio]* 47
Electoral Service Rejects Monckeberg's Candidacy *[Santiago Radio]* 47

Colombia

'Aggressive' Antidrug Operations Country-Wide *[Bogota TV]* 47
Drug 'Comptroller' Caught *[Hamburg DPA]* 47
Secret Report Contains Dossiers on Drug Leaders *[EL TIEMPO 6 Aug]* 48
UC-ELN Communique on Temporary Cease-Fire *[Radio Patria Libre]* 49
7 Policemen Killed in Huila Bomb Attack *[Bogota TV]* 50
Government Establishes Embassy in Fiji *[LA PRENSA 11 Aug]* 50

Paraguay

Rodriguez on Meeting With Senator Lugar *[Asuncion TV]* 50
U.S. Envoy Dislikes 'Sensitive Questions' *[EL DIARIO 21 Aug]* 50
Uruguayan Official Meets With President Rodriguez *[HOY 19 Aug]* 50
Arrest of Former Social Security Head Ordered *[ABC COLOR 17 Aug]* 51
Police Reportedly Clash With Armed Peasants *[Asuncion TV]* 51
Congress Approves Land Expropriation Law 17 Aug *[ABC COLOR 18 Aug]* 51
Diplomatic, Consular Institute Director Installed *[HOY 19 Aug]* 51

Peru

Minister Confirms Resignation; To Run for Mayor *[Lima TV]* 51
Liberty Movement Registers With Electoral Court *[Lima TV]* 51

Uruguay

Argentina Requests Arrest of Montoneros Leaders *[Montevideo Radio]* 52
Officials Say Relations With Panama at Low Level *[BUSQUEDA 17-23 Aug]* 52
Japanese Finance Ministry To Allow Yen Bond *[Tokyo KYODO]* 52
World Bank Grants $65-Million Agriculture Loan *[EL DIA 12 Aug]* 52
Trade Surplus, Reserve Levels Reported *[EL DIA 12 Aug]* 53
Voter Poll Shows Pacheco Areco, Lacalle Ahead *[LA HORA POPULAR 14 Aug]* 53

Venezuela

Perez on Debt, Panama, Nonaligned Meeting *[Caracas TV]* 53
* Perez Proposes Pact Against Corruption *[EL NACIONAL 8 Jul]* 55
* Iturbe: 'Spirit of Cooperation' in Recadi Case *[EL NACIONAL 21 Jul]* 55

Guyana

Hoyte Addresses Eighth Biennial PNC Congress 56
Speaks on Caricom Relations *[CANA]* 56
Proposes Policy Initiatives *[CANA]* 57
Cites Economic Recovery Program *[CANA]* 57
3 Planning To Overthrow Hoyte To Stand Trial *[Bonaire Radio]* 58
Nicaragua To Close Embassy; Finances Cited *[CANA]* 58
Opposition To Ask Carter To Observe Elections *[CANA]* 58
TUC, IMF Discuss Devalued Dollar, Wages *[CANA]* 59

Suriname

Military Denies Coup Plans, Says Crisis Exists *[Hilversum International]* 59
Rebels Claim Army Moving Toward Insurgents *[Havana Radio]* 60

Cuba

GRANMA Sees 'Imminent' Attack on Panama

FL2108162589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1103 GMT 21 Aug 89

["Text" of 21 August GRANMA editorial: "Imminent Yankee Attack on Panama"]

[Text] The U.S. siege on Panama is rapidly approaching a critical point. The number of events in progress are shaping a scenario of imminent military attack and each hour that goes by makes this threat more certain.

Cubans could picture what is happening in the brother country if we imagined that a U.S. occupation army was encamped in Alamar, reinforced and armed to its teeth, and from there its detachments made incursions into Havana, conducted exercises in its streets, parks, and even work centers, at the same time that U.S. helicopters and combat planes flew through the capital's skies. We could have a good idea of the brutal pressure the heroic Panamanian people are resisting if to this picture of virtual intervention and psychological tension taken to extremes we added the overwhelming press campaign, the economic and financial blockade, and the harsh statements made by U.S. military and political leaders who have made a call to use force to dislodge the Panamanian Government.

As in the glorious days of January 1964, Panama is staging now another impressive chapter of its struggle for national sovereignty and independence. One of its essential goals is to recover the right over the interocean canal that crosses its territory. With its tenacious resistance, Panama is turning into a great example of courage and patriotism faced with the U.S. policy and its domination pretensions over Latin America. This, of course, is not aside from the complex global situation the world is experiencing.

As it can be seen now, Washington has now a peculiar way of understanding the new thinking, detente, and dialogue. Everything indicates that Bush and his team assume these changes as the possibility of having a free hand policy to wage a war on small countries and impose on Latin America and the world a type of government suited to its geopolitical interests. The rapture of victories that fills the empire's leaders undoubtedly leads them to believe that they are allowed to do everything and that they have absolute power. Nothing else can explain the cynicism and self-confidence with which President Bush himself stated the possibility of staging an operation to kidnap the chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

In light of this, it can be said that the United States and its government tend to turn into international practices the methods of the worst gangster mafias. Certainly, the least that could be said is that the silence of complicity of a good part of the international community over the ease with which the President of one of the superpowers thinks he has—and says he has—the right to kidnap the chief of the armed forces of a small Third World country is of concern.

This mixture of arrogance and bitterness for failing to achieve their goals is what encourages the barbaric and contemptuous language with which military leaders, congressmen, and other Yankee politicians allow themselves to refer to a sovereign and independent country of this hemisphere. The underlying thing, and we should never forget, is the Yankee aspiration to thwart the fulfillment of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter agreements, reached not as a gift from Washington but as result of the historic struggle of the Panamanian people and their great nationalist leader Omar Torrijos, faithful example of the patriotic consciousness and the commitment of the honorable military men to their country's cause. Those treaties were also—and it has to be acknowledged—an expression of realism in U.S. foreign policy, pressed to improve its image with Latin American peoples at a time when this was favored because of the balance of power and the domestic and foreign situation of the United States after the Vietnam disaster.

The current leaders in Washington look at that stage like the devil looks at the cross. They want to get rid of the commitments made then at any price. They would want to pull out by its roots the last trace of Torrijism because Torrijism has turned into the symbol and banner of the legitimate Panamanian aspiration to recover its main natural wealth.

All the Yankee allegations against the Panamanian Government are a hypocritical mask that hides the true imperialist purpose, to perpetuate the status of domination over the Panama Canal. Thus, the current course of events in Panama also reflect the repeated failure of the broad U.S. repertory used for this purpose including political pressures, destabilization, conspiracy, economic blackmail, and military intimidation.

History will someday tell how the extremely suspicious way in which General Omar Torrijos died fits into the pursuit of this goal. That suspicious accident and its consequences, which could only favor the United States, took place under conditions that would allow the U.S. authorities to ultimately use the so-called plausible denial created for these cases by the country's special services.

In any case, frustration and anger have increased in the same proportion in which the evidence grows that Torrijos' death did not bury his nationalist ideal to which he contributed with an unequivocal anti-imperialist stamp and the fact that there were among the defense forces and the people courageous and resolute chiefs and political leaders capable of continuing the Torrijos cause. This

and nothing else is what explains the arrogance and lack of ethics that characterize the campaigns against General Noriega and the lack of any scruples in the attacks on the Solis Palma government.

Subject to ridicule and judged as incompetent by the most reactionary sectors of Congress, the official U.S. spheres can hardly explain what is happening. The economic and financial blockade imposed by the United States in April of 1988 failed despite the enormous sacrifices the Panamanian nation and its workers have had to make. Those who know about the enormous dependency created for decades between the Panamanian and U.S. economies, because it benefitted the neocolonialists, can understand Panama's feat in resisting and overcoming that huge test.

It has to be noted that Panama has created original and daring solutions to face the repeated charges, has been sorting out difficulties, and preventing the paralyzation of the country without adopting extreme measures. This is also a new contribution to the multiphase struggle Latin American peoples have to wage, an experience on how to resist—within certain limits—the economic strangling the United States puts into practice.

The Bush government, as its spiritual mentor Ronald Reagan did before, makes claims about Panama with the insolent cynicism of a supposed democratic concern. But what makes it beat the drums of war is something else. They are the domination interests, the fear of reaching 1999—the date of the complete transfer of authority over the canal—without the United States having in Panama a docile and unconditional government as it does not have now. This is what bothers the United States over any rhetoric, to see itself in the situation it wants to avoid at the end of the century. Of course, this is also what dictates in a different way Washington's parsimony in its treatment with truly antidemocratic and bloodthirsty regimes in the continent.

These were the goals that moved the U.S. plan around last May's elections in which the U.S. Government led the opposition's campaign. It invested tens of millions of dollars in favor of its candidates. It used extensively the most sophisticated psychological warfare techniques. And finally, it openly used fraud, creating a large domestic conflict. This forced the Panamanian Government to annul the elections' results in an effort to defend its sovereignty.

The effort to use the OAS against Panama and turn it into a referee of its domestic affairs also failed when the OAS rejected the main Yankee goals and decided to act with a sense of political mediation between the government and the opposition.

The pressure applied by Bush with the unprecedented escalation of military and political measures in the last 3 months have also failed up to now. They included the landing of thousands of Marines and soldiers in the South Command, the deployment of new weapons, provocative maneuvers over areas in Panama City, arbitrary arrests of Panamanian officers and soldiers, illegal blockade of the entrance to the offices of the chiefs of the FDP, up to the ridiculous commando, defense, and rescue operation exercises at the Yankee embassy in the center of the Panamanian capital and the home of the U.S. ambassador—who by the way, was recalled to Washington—at the same time that the mission's staff was reduced to a minimum and training is beginning for the evacuation of U.S. citizens to their country or the so-called canal zone.

All this cannot be other than the preamble to a military intervention. Panama awaits even harder and more difficult tests. Latin America and the Caribbean need to be alerted. Only 72 hours ago, U.S. Embassy officials in Panama, led by the charge d'affaires, Counselor (John Maisto) summoned to the home of Ambassador Davis—who is in Washington—the chiefs of the Latin American diplomatic missions accredited to Panama to explain the U.S. Government's concern regarding the prevailing situation in the country. Representatives of the South Command also attended the meeting. They spoke on behalf of Generals Warner and Cisneros, top chiefs of the Yankee troops in Panama.

At that time, the U.S. spokesmen referred to alleged grave violations committed by the FDP regarding the Torrijos-Carter agreements and the way in which, according to them, the Panamanian Government was blocking a negotiated solution to the country's problems because of the intransigence of the chief of the FDP. This would not leave them another option than to act unilaterally to solve Panama's domestic affairs its own way.

As they have done so many times in the past to cover up any misdeed, the officials talked about their duty to protect the lives of U.S. citizens and the need to guarantee the canal's safety and said that superpowers have inescapable duties and responsibilities. One of the high-level U.S. officers present there, Colonel Perry, warned the diplomats that the U.S. occupation forces are ready to act as soon as they receive the order from the White House. All this is extremely dangerous.

The United States, in its arrogant intoxication, is tempted to take military action. It would be a terrible mistake and a show of terrifying political shortsightedness. The Panamanian people will not be subjected to humiliation or crime. The Panamanian people will not fall on their knees before their attacker. The country's history shows something very different. It shows the spirit of people who are proud of their nationalities and are capable of fighting for their rights. But above all, it would be a mistake to ignore the experience and determination to fight accumulated by Panamanians throughout these last years.

Bush should not be mistaken because he is not going to find a military easy ride. Attacks on Panama could begin tomorrow but this would not take place without a heroic resistance of the Panamanian people and their Defense Forces.

It was reported that during the abovementioned diplomatic meeting held in Panama City, some Latin American representatives expressed to their hosts their opposition to the intervention in the country's domestic affairs and support for the peoples' self-determination.

The need to raise vigilance and alertness to the maximum in Latin America in view of the events in Panama is given by the conditions prevailing there. In fact, the country is occupied by the U.S. Army. The attacker does not have to travel from another territory and an outcome could be precipitated in a matter of minutes with any pretext as the one the Yankee military have been looking for in the last few days in a provoking way. The pretext, which is already clear, is that Panama and its Defense Forces are violating the agreements and are threatening the safety of the interocean way and of U.S. citizens. Greater infamy is impossible.

Television footage obtained in the last few hours, which should be shown to the whole world if it were not for the fact that the large U.S. international companies are the ones that fabricate the version that interests the country's government, show in a shameful way what is truly happening in Panama. It shows Yankee soldiers at the same insulting level as Nazi occupiers in the streets of Bohemia or Moravia. They are testing the nerves of the FDP and the people. The deployment of the U.S. armored cars has even reached the proximities of the international airport, where they were never authorized to go.

The U.S. forces are trampling over the part of the agreements already in effect and behaving as if they did not exist, as if certain installations and areas had not already been turned over to the Panamanian authorities. The have even reached the FDP commands. They are trying to drag Panamanians into provocations through constant humiliations, offenses, and obscene challenges to their honor.

The FDP and Dignity Batallions are showing that they, in fact, have nerves of steel. But with this attitude is the certainty that they will be able to multiply, if the time comes, the heroism of the young men who in 1964 faced the Marines' bullets with rocks, fists, and the Panamanian flag. The Panamanian cause is a historic banner shared among Latin American governments and people and the entire Third World.

In case of an attack, solidarity would undoubtedly reach the highest levels. Latin American governments, in particular, are called to fulfill an unavoidable duty to prevent the historical mistake of a direct U.S. military intervention in Panama. This duty is something that goes beyond any other consideration, even beyond the level of political relations that could exist between each country and the Panamanian Government. What is at play there is a much more important and definite principle than the likes and dislikes toward certain men. What is decided there is whether we are truly free or not. What is decided there is whether we are capable or not of solving our problems on our own, based on the sovereign will of the peoples, or if we return to the time in which a regional police can assume the right to decide what is right or wrong in Latin America and intervene at will in area countries.

The responsibility that falls on the shoulders of the Latin American governments and political forces is extremely serious at this time. To ward off the threat would mean to free the continent of a step backwards which, in the long run, would be against the freedom, dignity, and dreams of justice of all the peoples south of the Rio Bravo. Our countries live today burdened by the overwhelming foreign debt and a terrible economic and social crisis which we will only be able to face if we are united and know how to firmly defend our claims. This unpostponable need, this need and this right, would be among the first casualties of a Yankee lash in Panama, which would weaken us and make all more vulnerable.

International public opinion as a whole and, especially, that of Latin America and the Caribbean also have to fulfill the obligation of attempting to prevent a holocaust in Panama and have the moral duty of denouncing the threat falling over Panama. The Panamanian people can and should solve their domestic problems on their own.

The U.S. Government is currently very far away politically and ideologically from the spirit that led the Carter administration to reach the canal agreements. The time is also different and the U.S. power tends to be bold. Nevertheless, there is still room to think that Mr Bush and his team could still reflect with political realism taking in consideration, above all, their own interests. It is hard to think that Washington would not be concerned over the wave of repudiation and the abyss of anti-U.S. feelings such an event would bring. Even more complex would be to find formulas to justify to the U.S. public opinion the numerous casualties to which the occupation army would have to expose itself. The experience of Reagan's fatal mistake is not far away when he took some 300 hundred U.S. men to their death in Beirut. Will Bush repeat, multiplied several times, a similar mistake? There is only one solution and it is very clear, to respect Panama's self-determination. Remembering Marti's phrase before the 1895 war, it could be said that a mistake in Panama today would be a mistake in Latin America, a mistake in modern humankind. To denounce these plans, to prevent that such monstrous crime is committed against the Panamanian people, is the unyielding duty of all the governments of Latin America and the world.

Panamanian Envoy Interviewed

FL2208042689 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Interview with Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Orestes Nieto de Icaza by reporter Eva Luna; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Luna] During the past few months, Panama has been the main target of U.S. aggression against Latin American nations. Today, as a matter of fact, GRANMA, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, denounces the latest events against the isthmian country. That is why we have here with us Mr Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to our country. First of all, we would like him to talk to us about the real situation Panama is facing these days, especially its people.

[Nieto] That is right. During the past few weeks, an excessive number of incidents have taken place: troop movements and helicopter and plane overflights from the military bases the United States has in our country.

This situation is occurring as part of the economic blockade and aggression that our country has been experiencing for over 2 years. The situation is also taking place in the midst of an increase of troops unauthorized by the Panama Canal treaty. To the situation, we also add the recent highly offensive statements made against our leaders by military chiefs of the South Command, which is illegally in our territory, and even by the U.S. President himself, Mr Bush. He has reached the point of suggesting the selective kidnapping of the commander in chief of our Armed Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

These incidents are occurring daily. They include troop movements, occupation of drinking water plants which provide our city with water, movement in civilian areas, convoy movements toward the capital's international airport, and interruptions on the Pan-American road. Recently, there was a simulated operation to defend the U.S. Embassy and the residence of the U.S. ambassador to our country.

To us, these actions highlight the prepotency of the United States with its aggressive attitude in the extensive development of a psychological war against Panama. The United States is failing to understand that we are a nation. It is failing to understand that national resistance is increasingly more active in dealing directly with these types of aggression.

Commentary Views UN Resolution on Puerto Rico

FL1808175389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U. S. desire to annex Puerto Rico has just suffered another blow in the UN Decolonization Committee. The committee approved a draft resolution presented by Cuba that reaffirms the right of the Puerto Rican people to free self-determination and independence. This is very important because the greatest significance of the vote is that the international community continues to consider Puerto Rico to be a colonial case which requires its permanent attention.

The Cuban representative to the United Nations, Oscar Oramas, called the approval of the document a great victory for the Puerto Rican people. All of the U. S. maneuvers to prevent the committee from speaking out on this subject failed in face of the deep-rooted feeling that Puerto Rico is a Latin American nation because of its language, culture, traditions, and history.

As Oramas said, and we quote: Latin America must wage a battle against the annexation of Puerto Rico. To allow it to be annexed would be to turn over its own blood and children to a voracious society that would not hesitate to gobble them up and strip them of all vestiges of their identity.

As always, Cuba reaffirmed its profound solidarity with the noble Puerto Rican cause, which has its roots in history and which makes us proud of the banners of independence Puerto Rico waves.

The United States wants to swallow up Puerto Rico with the false pretense of providing the options of free associated state, annexation, or independence. This is a dirty and perverse maneuver. No consultation is legitimate if it is not preceded by the transfer of all powers to the people being consulted.

The plebiscite proposal in the U.S. Congress is an attempt at a miserable lie that must be uncovered. One should not allow this new deception to befall a people who for 19 years have been victims of one of the longest and most repressive processes in the history of modern colonialism.

UN Asked To Prevent S. Africa 'Maneuvers'

FL1908121789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1103 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Oscar Oramas, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, has called on the UN Security Council to adopt responsible positions with regard to Namibia and to ensure the fulfillment of UN Resolution 435.

He suggested that the international organization adopt the appropriate measures to prevent South African maneuvers which are directed at the noncompliance of the resolution on Namibia. Oramas said that instead of disbanding its troops, South Africa has incorporated them into the colonial administration of that territory so that they can continue harassing the population.

For its part, the UN special committee for decolonization proposed that the United Nations send a mission to Namibia to supervise the November electoral process.

Relatives of Soldiers Killed in Angola Notified
FL1908023289 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing Cuba's position regarding the subversive action of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] in which six Cuban soldiers were killed.

The incident occurred on the morning of 14 August when a group of between 15 and 20 armed UNITA members ambushed a Cuban truck 24 km north of Cubal, Benguela Province, in the People's Republic of Angola. The UNITA group wounded and then brutally murdered the Cubans who were traveling through the area engaged in daily supply tasks unrelated to combat actions, said Fidel's letter to Perez de Cuellar.

Later on he asserted that Cuba will act in such a way as to guarantee the safety of its internationalist combatants in Angola under any circumstances. In fulfilling the agreements, as we have been strictly doing, no one should have doubts that we will tolerate attacks or hostile acts against our troops; consequently, we reserve the right to respond to these provocations with all our strength as necessary, said Fidel.

Fidel's letter to Perez de Cuellar adds that the political and moral responsibility of the Government of the United States of America regarding these kinds of terrorist actions is unquestionable inasmuch as it is well known that it continues to provide material support to the UNITA bands in clear violation of the spirit of the agreement reached in December 1988.

In denouncing this act with profound indignation, Fidel warned about the serious consequences of such acts and concluded by saying that what happened could adversely influence in the compliance with the timetable of withdrawal of the Cuban troops from the People's Republic of Angola.

Regarding these actions, the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces reports to our people that the relatives of the internationalist combatants have been notified personally and promptly about the criminal action in which their loved ones were killed.

Signed: Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Over 300 Internationalists Return From Angola
FL1908114689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1102 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Two Cubana de Aviacion flights have brought back to the fatherland over 300 internationalist combatants from the People's Republic of Angola where they fulfilled important missions.

Upon arriving, the combatants told stories, the kind that turn into legends. During their mission, the internationalists, most of whom are very young, displayed courage, valor, and discipline. An example of this are Marcos Jimenez Rodriguez from Baracoa, Guantanamo, and Jorge Luis Fonseca from Matanzas, who bear the Calixto Garcia Medal, as well as officer [name indistinct] who carried out four internationalist missions earning him the Che Guevara Order.

This group of combatants was received by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and hero of the Republic of Cuba; officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior; and other leaders of the party and of political and mass organizations.

Castro Meets With Colombian Trade Delegation
FL1908142089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz met Thursday afternoon with the visiting Colombian delegation representing the National Federation of Businessmen, FENALCO.

In a very cordial atmosphere, discussions were held related to important prospects for the development of commercial and economic relations between our countries, which have increased during the past few years.

Fidel gave an extensive explanation on Cuba's experiences and perspectives in the area of public health and education. He also spoke about the results of the application of the process of rectification, its repercussion in the economic sector, and the prospects that will be opening up for commercial trade.

Malmierca Concludes 5-Day Visit to Egypt
FL1808183089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today ended a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. The preparations for the upcoming nonaligned summit, scheduled to take place in Belgrade from 4 to 7 September; Namibia's independence; and the Third World's foreign debt were the main subjects discussed by Malmierca with his hosts, among whom was 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Following his meeting with Mubarak, the Cuban diplomat highlighted the analogous positions of the two states on the majority of current issues. He also emphasized that they had agreed on the need to take urgent measures to consolidate Namibia's independence.

During Malmierca's talks with Egyptian authorities, bilateral relations were also discussed, as well as the Middle East crisis, as part of an analysis of other aspects of the international situation.

Quick Response Praised in Guantanamo Train Wreck
FL2108222289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Nineteen is the death toll of the train accident that occurred last Saturday [19 August] in Guantanamo Province.

There are still those who wonder how it was possible that last Saturday's rescue operation in Guantanamo was carried out so quickly. Someone must publicly express gratitude for all the effort made by the Cuneira residents, the uninjured passengers, the people aboard the train coming from Los Reinaldos who were waiting to cross the bridge, our police, the railroad workers, and the public health personnel. Their solidarity prevented the death of more persons who would have otherwise died. [passage omitted]

Grenada

Blaize Accuses Opposition of 'Dirty' Campaigning
FL2108203089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, August 20, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has expressed concern with the level of political campaigning now taking place on the island with general elections only a few months away.

In his weekly radio broadcast, Blaize, who is likely to face a no-confidence motion in Parliament on Friday, called on political opponents to discontinue the character assassination of others. He accused some politicians of using language which can only lead to hatred and of behaviour that is unbecoming in a civilized society. He also said that the speeches and press releases issued by some politicians pay little regard to truth and honesty. "Surely this type of campaigning cannot be encouraged," he added. According to Blaize there is no need for politics to be dirty and to be used to divide Grenadians.

"We are all one people with the same aspiration, that of making Grenada a peaceful, progressive, and stable country for the benefit of us all," he said. "We are not free to say or do anything that is not in the public interest," he said.

Blaize spoke of no individual or political party being bigger or more important than Grenada. "As such, therefore, we should always exercise care and responsibility so as to protect the national interest," he said.

"We must set the example so as to guarantee a clean political atmosphere. Let us concentrate on issues and let us be honest in putting across our views on those issues," he said.

Haiti

Avril in Petit Goave Vows To 'Fix Everything'
FL1808145389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Report by Petit Goave correspondent Leonard Felix Beauvais]

[Excerpts] The population of Petit Goave has always been (?receptive) to socioeconomic change. Despite their torments—the lack of employment, which makes for a hard life—they love life. We noticed this during the Feast of the Assumption. [passage omitted]

Also, on the day of the festival itself, yesterday afternoon, the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, visited Petit Goave.

At the Soulouque barracks, his first stop, he was warmly received by the local authorities. They informed him of certain pressing needs in the town of Petit Goave, such as the need to renovate the public square and the (Lambi) Club cultural center, the need to finish the soccer field fence, the need for equipment for the league's players, the need to pave Lamarre Street, and the need to dredge three rivers that are doing the population in.

The general's second stop was city hall, where he said a few words to the population, which had gathered to welcome him. Here's what he said:

[Begin Avril recording] [Passage indistinct] Before I got myself into this big headache in which I am today, I used to visit here. However, I said to myself that I could not let this stop me from visiting you and see how things are going. I've been told that you had a very good time yesterday evening, praise God. I hope the festivities continue along the same vein.

As for us, in our current position, we have no other [word indistinct] than to work to obtain normal living conditions for the Haitian people. It is not normal for the Haitian people, after 186 years, to be in the situation they are in. Don't you agree? Thus, our mission is to fix everything, set up all the necessary institutions so that we will never again regress. Regarding this work, I think that the entire population is with us. We must succeed in this, because we are not doing it for ourselves. We are not doing it for our generation but for the generations of tomorrow.

I won't stay long. As I told you, this was a surprise visit. I will visit some other day and talk to you longer, OK? [applause, cheering] [end recording]

From city hall, the general went back to the barracks. Before returning to the capital, he reviewed the troops and he also promoted Sergeant (Gabriel L. Jean) to adjutant.

Press Comments on U.S. Company Contract, Aid
FL1808184289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Periodicals this week are still focusing on the Fort Dauphin contract, stressing in particular, the aspect illustrated by the Creole proverb: He who gives is stupid, but he who, having been given, refuses to take, is an even greater imbecile. They report that the head of the Monte Christi Corporation is nothing more than an big international thief, well known for setting up deals involving lots of bucks and making pretty promises, none of which he ever keeps.

Thus, a bilious article against so-called businessman Reyes Carrion carried in the U.S. periodical CARIBBEAN BUSINESS is reproduced in almost all the Haitian periodicals. The periodical BALANCE carries a big headline reading: The Haitian Government Has Made a Deal With a Swindler. BALANCE says the Port-au-Prince authorities should have obtained information on him from U.S. companies through the Haitian consulates and embassies before signing a contract. BALANCE then concludes: It is not too late to correct the error and avoid things becoming worse in the future if the government did not act in bad faith. [passage omitted]

Last week HAITI-PROGRES interviewed Monte Christi Corporation head Reyes Carrion and says that if anybody stands to benefit from this affair, it is not northeastern Haiti—as L'UNION [government paper] claims in an article by Joseph J. Bataille—but rather Mr Reyes Carrion. He has an opportunity to create within Haiti another little country where he will be free to do as he pleases. He will not have to pay taxes and will be able to find workers to slave away for a pittance without the right to complain in the slightest.

HAITI EN MARCHE says that this matter has been kicked around for some time—ever since the first Namphy government when Gustave Menager was minister of agriculture and Mario Celestin minister of commerce. It was [words indistinct] who signed the authorization for the Gonaives toxic waste to enter Haiti.

The paper asks: Did current Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma seek to obtain proper information before getting involved in this matter? Are there other interests behind this matter?

HAITI-PROGRES says that when the United States proclaims loudly that it has resumed its official aid to Haiti with the signing of a $10-million food agreement the United States is helping itself. Not only is it making Haitian bellies more dependent on the United States, but this also allows it to get rid of an excess of wheat. [passage omitted]

Also, the respect for human rights that the U.S. Government listed among the reasons for resuming its aid constitutes demagoguery, for there is currently strong repression in Haiti, says HAITI-PROGRES.

HAITI EN MARCHE sees the aid matter differently. The general is not interested in holding elections at present. Since he hopes to spend a good while in power still, he is working to obtain from Congress $20 million in aid for 1990. To this end, the general is playing two cards at the same time: first, the struggle against drugs; second, the complicity of the U.S. ambassador, Clinton McKinley [name as heard], who should have already left Haiti, as his tour is over. [passage omitted]

The general is trying to attract the attention of Congress, which will then perhaps be more tolerant of other intentions the general has in the back of his head.

The other aspect of the matter is the continued presence in Haiti of Ambassador McKinley, (?a good friend) of the general's, at the general's request. [passage omitted] This is because the ambassador is working non-stop to convince Congress that all the necessary conditions for elections in Haiti are not yet present, but that all efforts are really being made so that there can one day be elections. If the Congress believes all these things, the general will remain in power longer, and the aid for fiscal year 1989-90, which will begin on 1 October, is going to be unblocked.

In connection with elections, BALANCE reports that the Duvalierists are looking to push Alix Cineas to the forefront as their leader. Even though he too, like the other Duvalierists, got rich at the expense of the Haitian people, he does not have a past as a murderer. According to the paper, the question remaining is: What will be the reaction of the hardline sector of the Duvalierists, which bases itself on intimidation and violence, to try to return to power?

The periodicals also discuss the relations between the Haitian and Dominican Governments, which are not good. They report that there is a press campaign under way against Haitians in the Dominican Republic implying Haitians are out to take the Dominican Republic from the Dominicans. [passage omitted]

Lastly, in connection with the U.S. dollars that factories get paid for articles they export, LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR makes a big plea in favor of the Haitian Government. The government has a right to the U.S. dollars from the assembly industry, says the periodical. [passage omitted]

In this same article, the periodical denounces a circular USAID sent all the banks in Port-au-Prince in July, in which it offered to sell them dollars. The paper says the U.S. Embassy has been openly trafficking in dollars, after probably doing it in secret. This is not legal.

In this connection, two decrees issued by the Haitian Government made the U.S. Embassy back off. [passage omitted]

MIDH's Bazin Discusses Economic Problems

FL1808233489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Marc Bazin, president of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], held a news conference yesterday morning at MIDH headquarters, very near Sacre Coeur Church. The news conference was held to discuss the problem of the Haitian gourde, which is losing its value vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar; the public sector deficit; Haiti's economy and finances, which are in crisis and deteriorating further day by day; the growing unemployment and the consequences of these crises; and the amount of money Haitian families have at their disposal to live on.

The MIDH president said the government has issued decrees and decree-laws asking the banks to keep their income and foreign currency in Haiti. These measures are not clear. Since the status of the gourde has not improved, the decrees have changed nothing.

Bazin declared that the government's measures are not effective. He said the government is attempting to come up with a stopgap remedy to use on an overall situation. Bazin added that the national economy has been backsliding since 29 November, or perhaps even earlier. Meanwhile, the population is increasing. At the same time, prices are increasing, taxes are rising, and [words indistinct] is dropping. The result of all this is a $40-million public sector deficit. This deficit could rise to $60 million by next October if measures are not taken to stop this [word indistinct] which is going to do in the national economy. In addition to this, the country's debt is in arrears to the tune of some $20 million.

[Begin Bazin recording, in progress]...instructions to ask banks to have all exporters hand over all of their foreign currency earnings over. It is not clear whether the measures are being applied or not, and there is a stir in the banking sector. In the final analysis, all we know is that the status of the gourde remains unchanged. [passage omitted] In other words, this has changed nothing. Thus, without going into whether the measure is good or bad, I note that for the time being, it is ineffective.

Why is it ineffective? Because it is an attempt to solve a global situation with a stopgap measure. The global situation is that since 29 November 1987 the Haitian economy has been in regression. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In view of this situation, the MIDH proposed a 6-month action plan to permit Haiti to attain the level of currency it needs. According to Bazin, this plan has two aspects, a political aspect and an economic aspect. The plan calls for the government to fight corruption within the administration, put a stop to contraband, and force the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] to put out an election calendar. At the same time, Mr Bazin called on the institutions that sent representatives to the CEP to pressure the council to make it put out an electoral calendar. He also feels the government must also close the ministries' checking accounts.

[Begin Bazin recording] This plan has two parts: a first part that is political and a second part that is economic and financial.

On the political level, we ask three things: The government must combat corruption. Second, it must eliminate contraband; that is, it must make people respect the law. Third, we ask the government, the Catholic and Protestant Churches, and everyone who sent a representative to the CEP to get together with the political parties to ask the CEP to hurry up. We ask this because the CEP is at present showing itself to be very footloose, and where it is going is not where the country needs to go. The country needs the CEP to come up with an election calendar. It is because there is a lack of political action, on the political level of elections, that we are in a crisis that no one can see an end to. (?We hear) every day that there are problems, problems, and more problems. Yet one is navigating by the naked eye. He [not further identified] doesn't know where he is going. He goes to the right one day, the left the next, forward the following day, and backwards the next. That is why the primary factor in solving the crisis—which is confidence that public affairs and the economy are being managed properly—is nonexistent.

Regardless of whatever stopgap technical measure one may take in an attempt to stop up a hole here or there, he will have no lasting results, because the real (?solution to) the crisis does not lie in little techniques, in asking banks to provide money, because one is managing shortages, managing extreme poverty, instead of creating abundance. That's on the political level.

On the economic and financial level, the MIDH thinks the budget deficit must be reduced. In order to do this, the MIDH, here and now declares that it is opposed to any tax measures that will further deteriorate the economic situation of Haitian families and of individuals outside the economy [nonekonomik], which has been in regression for the past 3 years. I mean, if (?the government) needs money today, it cannot take money from you, or him, or anybody, because nobody has made any money for the past 3 years.

It's really quite simple. Since you have created nothing, produced no wealth, you cannot simply, whenever you need money, continue to go and take money from someone who over the past 5 or 10 years has lost 22 percent of his buying power. [end recording]

In view of the public sector deficit, the MIDH thinks that incompetent administrators should be fired, salaries should stop being raised arbitrarily, government funds should be watched so that they are not misused, important people who are not in the habit of paying for their electric power should pay for it, and public enterprises should be supervised effectively.

The MIDH is against any raising of taxes, and thinks that the government should discourage the banks' lending money at 2 or 4 percent to certain people with big collateral to offer the government.

CEP Meets With Grande Anse Representatives

FL1808171889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] are in the Grande Anse right now; more precisely, in Jeremie, where they are meeting with all area sectors to discuss the organization of the coming elections. [Reporter] Louis Seize France from Jeremie will give us details:

[France] [Passage omitted] On Monday afternoon the CEP members held a meeting at the Jeremie city hall conference room to discuss certain points with several local social representatives. They did the same in several different (?villages near) Jeremie, such as Bonbon, Abricots, and Chambellan. The CEP talked to people from several different social classes in the abovementioned areas. [passage omitted]

The people participating in these work sessions gave their opinion on each of the six points discussed, such as on the matter of the electoral rolls. A majority agreed that there should be permanent electoral rolls. They said such rolls would prevent fraud.

In regard to electing section chiefs, many of them voted in favor. However, many people also voted against electing the section chiefs. Some people said that since the Haitian Army is responsible for the section chiefs, there is no need to elect them. They said that if the section chiefs were to be elected, the generals, majors, and corporals would also have to be elected. [passage omitted]

Many of these people suggested that elections be held in two or three stages. Those in favor of two stages said there should be legislative and presidential elections in the first stage, and Administrative Council for the Communal Section [Casec] elections, municipal elections, and elections for section chiefs in the second stage. Those in favor of three stages felt there should be Casec and municipal elections first, legislative elections second, and presidential elections last.

In regard to when the elections should begin, many people felt elections should begin between November and March 1990. Many others felt elections should be held during vacation (?periods). Also, some of these people felt that elections should begin and end in 1990. Additionally, many people felt the CEP itself should choose the election dates.

Many people were in favor of the Haitians living overseas participating in the elections, but on the condition that they come to Haiti to vote. The people consulted felt that the CEP should do a little something for the overseas Haitians: set up a special system of some kind to give them time to register so they can participate in the voting.

In addition to these six main points, they asked other questions. In other words, they asked the CEP what measures it has taken to counter the insecurity that has spread all over Haiti, so that there will not be another 29 November 1987.

The CEP members answered that this was the first thing they had discussed with the president of the Republic, and that he had assured them that he would provide security for themselves, the candidates, and the entire nation throughout the entire electoral process. They said they had also talked to the Haitian Armed Forces General Staff, which had also assured them that they and the entire country would be given security. Let's listen to CEP President Louis Antoine Auguste answering the question on insecurity. [passage indistinct]

Ends Tour, Comments on Elections

FL1908011489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] have ended their tour of Haiti's Department of the Grande Anse and Department of the South as part of the organization of future elections in Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Louis Seize France] [Passage omitted] Regarding the electoral rolls, most of the people in the places we mentioned felt there should be permanent electoral rolls. Regarding electing the section chiefs, many were not in favor of elections for section chief. However, the people in Aquin did vote in favor of electing the section chiefs. [passage omitted] As to the number of stages elections should be held in, whether from Cavaillon, Saint-Louis du Sud, or Aquin, all of the people thought the elections should be held in three stages: elections for the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections and municipal elections first, legislative elections second, and presidential elections last. Many people felt elections should begin in March 1990 and also end in 1990.

As concerns the participation of Haitians living overseas, many people were in favor of such participation, but on the condition that these Haitians come to Haiti to vote, given the difficulties this presents.

After giving their opinion on these six points, the people asked the CEP other questions, such as questions on the matter of insecurity and procedures for reducing the number of candidates, who are sprouting like mushrooms in Haiti, because too many candidates prevent people from making a good, serious choice and confuse many voters. The CEP must do something to reduce the number of candidates so that there will be a maximum of three candidates for president, the people said.

Regarding insecurity, the CEP members said it was the executive who was in charge of providing security. [passage omitted] CEP President Louis Antoine Auguste told the people that they must not confuse ordinary banditry with political insecurity.

[Begin Auguste recording] We (?have asked) that security be provided for the candidates, the voters, and the entire population on the day of the elections. We must be able to organize all these things. And it is, precisely, hand in hand with the Haitian Army that we are working on this organization, to see what it can do, and also what its limitations are, because we have to take that into account. The Armed Forces have a limited number of troops. They have always told us this, you see, so that we will know how to organize the elections and they can be held under the best possible conditions, with a great deal of participation. We ourselves want to hold successful elections; that is, elections that are free, honest, and open, but with a great deal of participation. That is what we would like.

Thus, that is why we are making all these rounds: So that, through the decisions we reach, the people will see that we did indeed listen to them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lastly, the CEP members also said that it was not the nine CEP members but the entire population together that would be holding the elections. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that the CEP members are to return to the central plateau next Saturday [19 August].

Conacom Congress Ends, Issues 9-Point Resolution

FL1808141089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] last Saturday [12 August] ended its first national congress, held in Carrefour Joffre, a communal section of Gonaives.

A nine-point resolution was issued at its conclusion. In the first point, the conferees declare that they disapprove of the way the government has solved the (?toxic waste) affair, saying that the population's health is still endangered by the toxic waste. They say the government must make an urgent effort to fix the road at both entrances to Gonaives. They also declare that the government must build roads in the communal sections. The peasants must be given potable water, schools for their children, dispensaries, and judges who will not sell justice.

Mpreover, they are not in favor of (?certain) contracts signed by the Haitian Government. They ask that the Haitian Government rescind the Plantation Dauphin contract.

They seek an end to murders, repression, and arrests in Haiti. Everyone must be able to hold meetings in Haiti without fear.

In the (?sixth point) of the resolution, they ask that the minister of justice and the Haitian Army take measures to stop peasants from being killed over land in the Artibonite. Also, the government should prevent foreigners from possessing large amounts of land in Haiti.

In the seventh point, they ask that the Organization for the Development of the Artibonite Valley do its job properly, especially in regard to irrigation, which gives the peasants a lot of problems.

They also ask that the government take measures to irrigate the Savane Desolee and all the other dried up plains in order to increase production in the Artibonite and all over Haiti.

In the ninth point, they ask that the government take measures to [words indistinct]. Small peasant farmers will pay for land [words indistinct], especially lands on the irrigated plains [words indistinct] government take measures to help them fight the erosion that is washing away the hills.

These were the points (?contained) in a resolution issued after a Conacom congress held last 11 and 12 August in Carrefour Joffre, located northwest of the town of Gonaives.

Further on Resolution

FL1808235589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] has held a congress in the Artibonite Valley. The congress was attended by some 230 delegates from organizations in the communes of La Chapelle, Verrettes, Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, Dessalines, Desdunes, L'Estere, Gonaives, Gros Morne, Anse Rouge, Marmelade, Saint-Michel, and Ennery. On 11 and 12 August, the delegates gathered and exchanged ideas in Carrefour Joffre, a communal section of Gonaives.

The resolutions issued were divided into three parts. The first part was on the problems of the Artibonite in particular and Haiti in general. We discussed this part in our newscast yesterday.

Today we will discuss the second and third parts.

First, regarding the transition to democracy, they say it is high time the provisional government takes measures to guarantee security for Haitians.

The resolutions further say: We also need security so elections can be held. In this way, the country can get through this transition and set out along the path of real change.

We say it is high time for the provisional government to give the Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] the means to really get to work; that is, give it headquarters, so that it can work in a fully independent manner, and give it a definitive budget, which the entire country should be familiar with.

We say it is high time for the CEP to present the nation with an election calendar, so that all citizens will know when they will be able to exercise their right to vote, which was stolen from them on 29 November [1987]. We intend to exercise that right under good conditions, as the constitution of 29 March [1987] stipulates.

Also, everyone should be advised that Haiti will not put up with another 29 November [reference to 29 November 1987 massacre].

Regarding Conacom itself, the resolutions declare: We are in favor of the resolutions issued at the congress for southeastern Haiti, especially the resolution that asks Conacom to become a political party open to all citizens, regardless of social class, who wish to work for real change in Haiti. We ask Conacom's leadership to include the following four ideas in the platform which is to be discussed at the national congress.

The first idea is: Let us struggle to build a political democracy, so that Haiti can become a normal country. For us, political democracy means a government that respects human rights and freedom of speech and of the press; a government that respects the citizenry's right to form organizations; a government that respects people's beliefs, as well as their political leanings; a government that will organize the political life the way the constitution of 29 March 1987 stipulates.

The second idea is: Let us struggle for economic development that is Haitian, so that Haiti can become a normal country. For us, this has to be development based on the desire to allow Haitians to live well, especially the poorest of the Haitians; the desire to see Haitians live in a normal country; the desire to see Haitians rely on themselves, even if we think foreign collaboration is also necessary.

We must attain a development based on reforms that must be made to land policies and industrial policies; based on the order that must exist in the public administration, so that there can be an end to corruption; based on the order there must be in regard to domestic and foreign trade.

The third idea is: Let us struggle to have Haitian dignity and Haitian culture respected.

The fourth idea is: Let us struggle to keep and defend our country's independence.

So that we can do Conacom's work better, we have formed a regional secretariat, with several area secretaries. This secretariat will be headed by a regional executive bureau.

These then, were the decisions reached at the congress that Conacom held in the Artibonite Valley last 11 and 12 August.

Jean-Rabel Council Discusses Peasants' Problems

FL1808174689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Report by Port-de-Paix correspondent Theodore Megalos Axius]

[Text] The Jean-Rabel Development Council [Konsey Devlopman Janrabel la] met in a general assembly on Tuesday, 15 August, at College Les Freres, (Nau). More than 100 peasant leaders participated in this meeting. Council President (Stanley Lucas) chaired the meeting.

These peasants came from Jean-Rabel's seven communal sections. Section by section, several of them took the floor. Each one presented the problems his (?village) is confronting in connection with health, drinking water, malnutrition, agriculture, irrigation, erosion, education, the fact that they have no schools, the fact that there are teachers working in the community schools who are not drawing a government salary, literacy programs, the roads into the hinterlands that they need, etcetera.

Dr (Gilbert St Jean), the director of the Jean-Rabel health subdistrict, took the opportunity to convey a message on the cooperation he is expecting from all these leaders to make the 20 August national vaccination day a success. Dr (St Jean) said there would be 40 vaccination posts for the Jean-Rabel area. Thus, in order to give all the children time to be vaccinated, he is going to begin vaccinating as of Thursday, 17 August, in (?four posts) in Dessources, fifth communal section.

At this meeting, the leaders chose 11 delegates to represent the commune of Jean-Rabel at the regional struggle-against-poverty seminar to be held on Sunday, 17 [as heard] August, by the Ministry of Social Affairs' regional office for northwestern Haiti.

The meeting of the Jean-Rabel Development Council lasted approximately 5 hours. Several of the participants left the meeting with souvenir gifts consisting of items such as attache cases, toothbrushes, and t-shirts distributed by Council President (Stanley Lucas).

Explosion Shakes MOP President's Residence

FL1808132889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] We have learned that an explosive device went off at approximately 0310 yesterday, shaking the residence of agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste. The explosion did not cause a lot of damage. However, Auguste, who is the leader of the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP], says the explosion was heard all over the area. He says this is the first time he has been the victim of such an act.

Mrs Auguste for her part believes that this explosion at her home yesterday morning is part of the climate of insecurity that has spread all over Haiti, because she has already been threatened very often in the past.

The police went to the area to take note of the damage and have promised to investigate this criminal act.

Thus, this explosion occurred yesterday morning at the home of agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste, president of the MOP.

PDCH Urges Formation of Vigilance Brigade

FL1908010189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] protests the climate of insecurity (?wreaking havoc on) Haitian families. Reverend Sylvio Claude's party asks the inhabitants of both towns and rural areas to form vigilance brigades so as to protect their lives and property.

This press release is signed by the PDCH.

People Asked To Organize Against 'Sans Mamans'

FL1908004089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In the Artibonite, there is a group of bandits called the Sans Mamans. The latest criminal exploit of these thugs is the robbery of $5,000 and the murder of three people, according to our area correspondent Leonard Exantus.

But before hearing from Exantus, we point out that there is reaction to these criminal acts perpetrated by the Sans Mamans in the Artibonite. The National Patriotic Movement of 28 November calls on the people of the area to (?activate) their instinct of self-preservation and their sense of combativeness to organize—while respecting the nation's laws—and protect their residences and their families. [passage omitted]

[Exantus] [Passage omitted] According to the area section chief and the relatives of the victims, the burglars were dressed in olive green. The investigation conducted by the police of the lower Artibonite valley specified that the men were armed with UZI's. [passage omitted]

Casec Members Charge Cabaret Magistrate Corrupt

FL1808184489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] (Phalante Pierre), coordinator of the Administrative Council for the Communal Section [Casec], and (Wilfrid Simon), a member of the Casec, are alleging misappropriation of funds within the communal administration of Cabaret. The two Casec members say communal magistrate Jean Wilfrid Leger is engaging in crooked wheeling and dealing in Cabaret city hall. The two delegates, from the second communal section of Cabaret, say Minoterie d'Haiti [national flour mill] gave the magistrate $5,000 to build a bridge in Casale. They say that to this day, nothing has been done. They also say Magistrate Leger is selling land illegally in Cabaret. In view of all these things, Leger owes the population an explanation regarding the missing money. Past this deadline [as heard], Leger will have to either build the bridge or resign.

The two Casec members came to the radio station to denounce Cabaret magistrate Leger. We will have you listen to an excerpt of their statements. [passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] There are a number of houses being built in the market place. I want the Department of Interior to come to Cabaret and see all the houses being built in the marketplace. [passage omitted] I need the Department of Interior to see if this kind of thing is allowed!

[Reporter] Haven't you tried to also contact the magistrate?

[Casec member] He won't listen to us. [passage omitted] Why, he won't even listen to his two fellow magistrates. [passage omitted] He does not even recognize them as magistrates. [passage omitted] The last thing I want to say is that if by Monday he has not brought back the $5,000, he need not set foot in city hall. He had better stay home. [passage omitted] I tell you that if he has not brought back the $5,000 by Monday, I ask will the other two magistrates to confiscate the key to city hall. [end recording]

Trade Union Attends Paraguay Rights Conference

FL1908005889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Mr Schiller Marcelin, secretary general of the General and Independent Organization of Haitian Workers, OGITH; (Jean-Philippe Gesner), OGITH organization secretary; and (Francis Fleurant), OGITH education secretary, held a news conference yesterday morning at OGITH headquarters located at the corner of Delmas Road and Delmas 11.

During the news conference, Mr Marcelin reported on the international conference on human rights in Latin America, which was held 8-12 August in Asuncion, Paraguay. [passage omitted]

The objective of this international conference was to show solidarity with Paraguay's workers and to reflect upon union rights in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, Chile, and Haiti.

During the news conference, Marcelin denounced the human rights violations here in Haiti—violations marked by murders, arbitrary or illegal arrests, the excessive cost of living, and the selling of a portion of the national territory. [passage omitted]

Government Authorizes Free Zone in Northeast
FL1808132489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] We have here a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination:

A military government decree dated 7 August 1989 authorizes the establishment and exploitation of a free zone for industry, commerce, agro-industry, tourism, and banking, as well as a free port for export and import operations, in the area called Plantation Dauphin in Haiti's Department of the Northeast. The space reserved for these activities is declared a priority international development zone.

Under the 7 August 1989 decree, this area will be surveyed without delay. This will be done [words indistinct] the General Directorate of Taxes; that is, the tax office.

The exploitation of the free zone and the free port is in conformity with the legal dispositions in force, according to the 7 August 1989 decree.

Justice Department, Other Appointments Announced
FL1808130589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In the public sector administration, Mr Hubert Cameau has been appointed assistant general director of Ciment d'Haiti [national cement plant] by a military government commission.

The following appointments have also been made within the Justice Department: Yvon Arnaud, representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor at the civil court of Anse-a-Veau; Yvon Genois, examing magistrate at the civil court of Anse-a-Veau; Ludovic Michel, judge at the civil court of Port-au-Prince; Daniel Janvier, notary in Cayes Jacmel; Wilbert Alexandre, notary in La Vallee de Jacmel; Jean Francois, notary for the commune of Grand Bois; Jean-Claude Etienne, surveyor in Petit Goave; and Mr Antenor Ernst, surveyor for Plaisance.

Costa Rica

VOA Terminates Contract With Local Station

PA2008184189 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 2-A

[Summary] Radio Costa Rica Manager Alvaro Ramos confirmed last night that the official U.S. Government station Voice of America, VOA, did not renew the contract that it has had with Radio Costa Rica for the past 5 years and that expires on 31 August. For this reason, he said, the station will reorganize its programming to cover the 5 and ½ hours of VOA transmissions.

Latest Election Poll Shows PUSC Leading PLN

PA2008231389 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 30 Jul 89 p 6-A

[Article by Armando Mayorga]

[Text] According to the latest survey by the Multi-Specialty Development Counselors [CID], if national elections had been held in the middle of this month, Rafael Angel Calderon would have won with a 12-point lead over Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo. The poll showed that 42.6 percent of Costa Ricans would have voted for the Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC] candidate, while 30.6 percent would have voted for the National Liberation Party [PLN] candidate.

Comparing the previous CID poll, which was taken at the end of February, with the current poll, one notes that support for the PUSC presidential candidate did not increase significantly, only 1.6 percent.

The current poll, however, shows a decline for the government candidate, who lost 6.4 percent of popular backing during these months—the 37 percentage points that he had in February has dropped to 30.6 points.

Almost 18 percent of the people interviewed stated that they will not vote in next year's 4 February elections, the main reason being that they are not pleased with the candidates, while 82.2 percent of those polled said that they plan to vote.

According to the CID, the poll took place between 11-22 July all over the country. A total of 1,276 people were interviewed—664 in the metropolitan area and 612 throughout the rest of the country. The CID claims a margin of error of 3 percentage points and a reliability factor of 95 percent.

Of the total polled, 640 were women and 636 were men, mostly young people, although ages varied from between 18 to 60 years old. A total of 48 percent of those polled had an elementary school education; 36 percent had a high school education; and 16 percent had a college level education.

This is the 32d public opinion poll carried out in Costa Rica by the CID, an organization founded 12 years ago that is affiliated with the Gallup International Research Institute.

To the question: "Who do you think will be the next president of Costa Rica?" a total of 52.4 percent of those polled chose Calderon and 25.5 percent chose Castillo.

The CID considers this apparent lead by the PUSC candidate "to be generalized, regardless of all social demographic variables," and said that one out of every four Costa Ricans believe that Calderon will be the next president."

The PUSC leader has vastly improved his image since July 1981, when he had only 11 percent of Costa Ricans' support. In 1985, 4 years later, at this stage in the campaign, he had achieved 36 percent support. He has now increased this support to 42.6 percent.

In the February poll, the opposition leader was ahead of the PUSC candidate by 4 points (41 percent versus 37 percent). The lead has now increased to 12 percentage points.

The poll also showed that the number of people that favor the PUSC over the PLN, as a political group, has increased, even though the difference is not large. The PUSC received 42.9 percent and the PLN received 39.2 percent in this part of the poll.

This result confirms a drop in the number of supporters of the government party over the past few months. In February, the government party was on top of the opposition party, 42 percentage points over 39.

An important poll finding is that 13 percent of the people who today support the PUSC voted for Dr Oscar Arias and his party in the 1986 elections. In addition, among those who are still undecided, which account for 26.9 percentage points, 31 percent voted for the PLN in the 1986 elections.

The CID concluded that "right now it seems as if the undecided are little by little joining the PUSC" and that, today, 7 months before the elections "there are fewer undecided people" than there were 7 months before the previous elections of 1982 and 1986.

Where do the parties have the strongest support? According to the CID, the PUSC has greater support outside the metropolitan area, where indecision is greater. Support for the PLN is about equal in the two sectors of the country.

The CID analysts maintain that over the past few months the euphoria in the PLN ranks following the 19 February Convention "seems to have waned," because Castillo "has failed to gather his supporters into one group, as Calderon has apparently done."

Only 70 percent of the Liberals interviewed said that they will vote for their candidate, while 88 percent of the Social Christians said that they will support their party.

The poll also revealed that 16 percent of PLN supporters will abstain from voting in the elections, compared to 9 percent of the PUSC. The CID said that "the main reason for not voting is that the people are not pleased with the candidates."

According to the poll, Costa Ricans, especially men, believe Calderon will play a better role than Castillo when confronting different problems as president.

In the case of Calderon, 28.2 percent said that they put a lot of trust in him, while only 17.2 felt that way about Castillo.

The majority of the people, however, believe that neither of the two will be able to solve the country's five main problems—drug trafficking, corruption, the cost of living, unemployment, and the housing shortage.

The first three areas are considered the most difficult; approximately 58 percent of those polled said that no one would be able to solve them.

The CID acknowledged that it is still "too early to forecast the election results." It considered that after the main campaign topics are discussed—poverty, corruption, continuity, unemployment, the use of drugs, personal security, and the cost of staple foods, among others—"the parties and their candidates positions will be further defined." The next CID poll will be in November.

El Salvador

No Response From Cristiani on FMLN Proposal

PA1808224489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2113 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)— Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has not responded to a letter in which the guerrillas proposed to resume the dialogue to end the war, Commander Nidia Diaz reported today.

Diaz maintained that President Cristiani and the Army talk about dialogue but "omit the word negotiation as part of the definition of the dialogue process" that could make it possible to find a solution to the armed conflict in which some 70,000 have been killed in the past 10 years.

"The dialogue makes no sense to us if it does not provide a negotiated solution to the conflict," Diaz maintained. Nidia Diaz is a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) Human Rights Commission.

In statements to a Salvadoran radio station, the FMLN commander said President Cristiani has not responded to the proposals made by the FMLN to resume the talks, which were conveyed last week through a delegation of opposition leaders. [passage omitted]

D'Aubuisson Discusses 'Opposition' to ARENA

PA2108133289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) by unidentified reporters; in 'Today's Interview' segment at a television studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Major D'Aubuisson. Thank you for being with us.
[D'Aubuisson] Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity.

[Reporter] To begin today's interview, over the past few weeks, it has become evident there is opposition to the new government. In other words, there is much criticism. If we stop to observe the stands adopted by the trade unions and the political parties, we see there is true opposition to the new government, to the measures issued by the government, and to the actions it is planning to implement. How has ARENA received this opposition and what is its stand concerning this situation?
[D'Aubuisson] This has already been studied and we were expecting this opposition reaction. Some measures undoubtedly had to be implemented, and they have been harsh for all of us. This had to be done in view of the circumstances under which this government was received by the new administration. We had made an evaluation of how to receive it, but we never really expected the administrative and economic chaos we found when we received it. Of course, the promoters of violence launched their "Everyone Against ARENA" campaign.

[Reporter] Are you familiar in depth with what this campaign is all about? What is the context of this "Everyone Against ARENA" campaign?
[D'Aubuisson] There is a very simple theory, which is what they are now proposing. If ARENA fails now, in other words, if the rightists fail, what alternative is left? The alternative is the mangy dogs [piricuacos; Miskito word use to refer to communist guerrillas]. That is the very simple mentality these people have.

[Reporter] Will ARENA fail?
[D'Aubuisson] Never.

[Reporter] Has the "Everyone Against ARENA" campaign been successful?
[D'Aubuisson] No. Unfortunately, some political parties—perhaps for momentarily tactical reasons—have tried to do something to survive. I do not think they are doing this for deep political reasons, but are merely

playing into it. We also know that many of the labor unions and associations are front organizations for the old movement of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

For example, the Democratic Convergence [CD] is the same thing as the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front]. [Guillermo] Ungo and [Ruben] Zamora were the FDR leaders. When they had friction and serious problems over the actions of the FMLN, their superiors told them: Leave the mangy dogs and become politicians. The Salvadoran people have been kind enough to receive them, because we believe in democracy. Let us hope that with this first step we have taken with these 12 former mangy dogs, the others who are still in that business will have faith and see that they can also join this democratic process.

[Reporter] In other words, the ARENA government is willing to give them an opportunity to join the current political system? Recently, it was speculated that some high-ranking leaders of the guerrilla movement in this country—Joaquin Villalobos, to be more specific—were planning to join the electoral process and run for city mayor or something.
[D'Aubuisson] Yes, this is a topic that I believe you have discussed here on other occasions. A Salvadoran official once talked with Joaquin Villalobos in Managua, and Joaquin told him: If I were to participate in any elections, I am sure I would win a landslide victory with the kind of organization we have in the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army], once it becomes a legal party. It is all right for him to believe that.

[Reporter] This official told you that? Does this official, whose name you do not disclose, have credibility with the government?
[D'Aubuisson] Allow me to reserve the identity of the source, but he does have much credibility. He is someone who is very familiar with that movement, and he does have credibility. The interesting aspect of this is the way this big mangy dog, this Mr Villalobos, thinks. If he wants to come here and participate, we'll take his word, and let us see if he will really have a landslide victory.

[Reporter] Would there be any guarantees for his participation?
[D'Aubuisson] Didn't I just tell you that the first mangy dogs, Ungo and Zamora, are already here? We do have the best of intentions; there is a willingness to do this. Now, if they actually want to do it, that is a different story. I am just telling you about the first indications we have had, in addition to some notes on the elections that have been sent by some who claim to be commanders. The overall picture has changed somewhat in the last few years.

[Reporter] What is that change, Major?
[D'Aubuisson] In practically all of the notes they [the FMLN commanders] have sent, including the ones sent prior to the elections, they said that if the elections were postponed they would participate. That is an indication that they do have plans to join the process.

[Reporter] What does this mean, Major?
[D'Aubuisson] It means two basic things: One, they are lost. The option to seize power through violent means no longer exists.

[Reporter] In other words, they are lost in the military field?
[D'Aubuisson] They are lost both in the military field and in the option to seize power through violent means. Second, they no longer have the support, and we have been analyzing that for some time now. There is no longer any support for this type of rebel movement, for this type of armed rebel movement to seize power.

[Reporter] You mean support from the USSR?
[D'Aubuisson] There is no support from the communist world in general. Naturally, this is based very much on the so-called perestroyka. Therefore, they will have to join the democratic process, because otherwise they are going to be left out. If they want to continue shooting bullets just for the sake of shooting, they are going to be left out of everything and everyone.

[Reporter] There is much talk here about forming an internal opposition front; I believe this is part of the "Everyone Against ARENA" campaign. Do you have any knowledge about this and the line this internal front might follow?
[D'Aubuisson] Well, not exactly. However, it is logical that an internal political front could be formed. That would be a political process within a democratic process. It is all right to do that. They have all the right in the world to do that.

Now, there are subversive thoughts. We are referring to those big mangy dogs who want to take the first steps in joining the democratic process. On the other hand, they are subversive individuals who are disrupting public order. If what they want is to cause harm and hinder the programs prepared by President Cristiani and his cabinet, they are going to go ahead and do it anyhow.

Remember that very simple phrase I told you at the beginning. They claim that if ARENA fails, they are the alternative. That is what the group of Ungo, Zamora, and all those others really think. There is another great possibility, and that is what is really going to happen here: ARENA will not fail. The Salvadoran people will not fail. However, they are going to try all the illegal, subversive actions they can to make us fail.

[Reporter] Some have established a certain point of comparison between what the creation of this opposition front would represent and what there was in 1978-79 when a broad front was formed, which later led to the formation of the FDR and the FMLN.
[D'Aubuisson] The People's Forum?

[Reporter] Exactly, the People's Forum. Could there be any such point of comparison?

[D'Aubuisson] No, I do not think so. Perhaps they might want to imitate it, but the conditions are entirely different. How are they going to justify it? How will they motivate people for it? If they are going to talk about it, then they should go ahead and try it. I do not believe there is any ideological basis for it, or any solid goal to do it.

[Reporter] Major, how do you evaluate the ARENA administration so far? It has been harshly criticized. The people who voted for ARENA claim the government has not done what they were expecting. Above all, the economic measures have been harshly criticized.

[D'Aubuisson] I understand all of this very well, and, thank God, the people have trusted us. If this country had continued in the hands of those corrupt and incapable people, who knows what would have happened by now? Thank God we have President Cristiani with a team of very capable people. Let us be confident, as we are in the hands of good, healthy people with good intentions. It is truly unbelievable what we received from the past administration.

For example, send a reporter to find out what was found in the IRA [Institute of Supply Regulation], which was supposed to have many things. It had nothing. If you check unit by unit, if you make a thorough analysis of the reports presented by the ministers, you will realize what we received.

However, we have hopes and guarantees. Above all, we have our convictions that we are nationalists and that we have struggled for our country. How are we now going to sink all of this on purpose? On the contrary, we have to make this country rise again. We received a ship that was nearly sinking. That is why we call it a government of national recovery. I do not want you to think this is something new, that we are now learning about this and we are now making improvisations. From the very beginning, when we began to study the status of the government and how we could save it, we decided to call it a government of national recovery. When does one go on a recovery mission? When a ship is sinking.

[Reporter] When do you think we will have achieved that recovery? As I said before, the economic measures have affected the people, the opposition has criticized these economic measures, and people want to see results.

[D'Aubuisson] Look, in this case the opposition will always criticize, no matter what is done. However, such criticism is not constructive criticism, because it does not offer any solution. Let us consider the case of the buses. Quite an uproar has been raised about the buses. Suppose there had been a stoppage by the bus drivers. The buses do not belong to the government. They belong to entrepreneurs, probably to people like you. So let us study the case of the buses. How many buses did Zamora order to be burned? How many buses did Ungo order to be burned? Each one of those buses is worth 150,000 pesos [currency as heard]. They have burned about 900, nearly 1,000 buses. We are not talking here about 10 centavos; we are talking about millions of colons that have affected the entrepreneurs.

Today they are screaming and protesting over the tariffs. Suppose the entrepreneurs come out and say that they cannot continue supporting the enterprise, that they are not making any profits and will just stop all buses. Do you not think the crisis would be worse then? Do you not think that this would be a lot worse?

[Reporter] Major, it has been clearly established by the government that we are experiencing difficult moments and each and every one of us has to tighten his belt. Perhaps this is what worries the people. We are going to tighten our belts, but for how long? When are we going to surpass that crisis and be able to take it easy?

[D'Aubuisson] Each one of us will know when he can loosen his belt. We must all engage in this recovery. El Salvador belongs to all of us, and we must all be understanding in recovering what has been left to us. That is why I insist on the word recovery. Think of a sinking ship with four or five survivors. Just because we get near the ship does not mean that we will have it afloat with everything ready to go. No, each one of us must work on a little corner of that ship, so we can get it operating.

I am neither an economics expert nor a planning expert. We are giving President Cristiani's government all the support we can, and as ARENA members we are enduring this crisis. We also have to tighten our belts. However, we are optimistic that we will gradually see improvements. Let us wait and see what the harvests will be like; let us see how this coffee harvest will turn out. Let us hope industrialists will again be confident and that business will pick up.

We do have our problems in the urban areas. For example, in San Salvador we have the problem of the buses and the prices of staples. However, there are no such problems in the rural areas, where there has always been work. Who has worried about that? Look, the people in the rural areas are happy because all farmers decided to work. After ARENA won the elections, all farmers had faith and again invested in their farms. There is a lot of financial movement in the rural areas. We must balance all things. Slowly we will realize the facts. Actions will speak louder than words.

[Reporter] In the international field it seems the new government has support, that there is support for the ARENA economic program. In fact, I was commenting this morning that the United States had voiced their support or approval in some way. This economic program calls for $108 million.

[D'Aubuisson] There will always be support. If we were holding this interview just a few days before the elections you would be asking me: Is it true what the fish [reference to the Christian Democratic Party] are saying, that if you win there will be no aid? I would have to tell you

that they are liars. Today, nearly 3 months later, we do have foreign support, because it is evident that this government has capable people with good intentions, and above all, that these are honest people.

The United States, as well as many other countries, was so concerned about giving support to El Salvador—but the support is for the Salvadoran people, not just the party of the fish—because they were disappointed over so much corruption.

[Reporter] Has the United States recovered that trust in El Salvador?
[D'Aubuisson] Of course. Anywhere you look in the Cristiani administration, you see honest, capable people, and most of them are not just looking after their political party. They are working for the government, with the good intention of getting El Salvador ahead. These people are doing this out of patriotism. If we were to speak about their economic situation, we might say that many have been personally affected.

[Reporter] Major, we have heard one opposition party say that ARENA used to criticize the U.S. Government a lot, and now they are accepting its aid. Is this not somewhat contradictory?
[D'Aubuisson] No. We used to be critical and say— and will say it again if it is done again—that the Americans give something in exchange for something else. If the assistance is for the Salvadoran people, then the United States should let the Salvadoran people—through its government—decide how it will channel that assistance. However, it is not right to give us aid so we will eat (chilipuca), because we eat beans in El Salvador.

Duarte was always up in the clouds. He wanted to be a personage. He never realized what he did, until the day he turned the presidency over to Cristiani. That day he realized he had been the president. But so long as we were showing off, which is what he likes, he did not care who was ruling. Who was ruling? Who knows, but this was sheer havoc. We will always criticize that type of U.S. intervention if it should continue. However, we will accept the relationship between two friendly nations and assistance for the people. That is normal, and that is for the people. Other administrations will follow, and the United States will continue assisting the Salvadoran people.

[Reporter] A topic that has captured both the national and international community's interest is undoubtedly the dialogue, or the possibility that a dialogue between the government and the FMLN will soon take place. What are the true possibilities, right now, of holding that dialogue?
[D'Aubuisson] We are going to do it. The proposal for a permanent dialogue that President Cristiani presented is an idea the party has had since 1982. I believe we were the first ones to propose a draft law that would recognize the FDR as a political party. This is one way of paving the way toward a dialogue. We had practically reached that first objective when the CD came into the picture. When the CD participated in the elections, it was like holding a dialogue with the people. Now, the fact that it was rejected because it did not obtain a minimum of 3 percent of the votes has demoralized the party members, and they hate us to death for that. They thought they represented the Salvadoran people, and that was the story they had told those who financed them. However, they did not even garner 3 percent.

Nonetheless, the possibility of a permanent dialogue will become a reality now. President Cristiani will appoint a permanent dialogue commission, and the political parties will try to maintain an inter-party commission. This commission may have contact with President Cristiani's commission, and, if advisable, with the mangy dogs themselves, as well as all the other groups in the nation, in order to listen to the concerns of the groups and then transmit this information to the commission.

[Reporter] This would mean a new commission, and not the one already appointed by President Cristiani?
[D'Aubuisson] He has not appointed any commission.

[Reporter] Yes, but names have already been mentioned as being members of the commission.
[D'Aubuisson] Yes, unofficially. Can you tell me when President Cristiani officially appointed a commission? There have only been rumors to that effect. Everyone has said it except for the president.

[Reporter] It has been said that the commission he would appoint—and if these are rumors perhaps you are the most qualified person to say so—would be at the highest level and would include the church and perhaps the Armed Forces.
[D'Aubuisson] I do not believe so. It will be a high-level commission, as President Cristiani had always planned it to be. I understand it might include one or two ministers and some very dignified officials, but I do not think the church will be included, unless he decides this at the last minute. I am not exactly working on that issue, but I do not think the church will be included. The church can play another role. Remember this is a political issue, and I do not think it is advisable for the church—or helps the church for that matter—to get involved in this type of political activity.

[Reporter] However, the church has been one of the main protagonists of this dialogue. What are the reasons that led to excluding the church from this dialogue?
[D'Aubuisson] I just finished telling you. In the first place, it is clearly established in the Constitution that the church cannot participate in political activities, and this is a political activity. The church can play another role; it has other options for what its functions should be. It can collaborate. We can all collaborate in developing the initial steps. That is basic. The commission appointed by Cristiani must take the initial steps in holding a conversation with these men who are destroying the Salvadoran people. This can be done without a prior agenda. This will then lead to other mechanisms and measures.

[Reporter] These conversations would always be held outside the country?
[D'Aubuisson] I think that would be best, and what they discuss—but not the meeting— should be kept private. In other words, it should be made public that the meeting is being held, but the topics that are discussed should be kept private until there is something specific to be announced. Otherwise, the dialogue will be used for political purposes and everyone is going to want to [words indistinct], and that is extremely important.

[Reporter] Is it necessary to have a ceasefire in order to hold the dialogue, as it is being said?
[D'Aubuisson] It should be done like that, if these men [of the FMLN] have any ethics or morals. They should suspend their aggression when a conversation begins. However, this is not necessary in order to begin the dialogue.

[Reporter] In its second letter to President Cristiani the FMLN allegedly said that the commission negotiating or holding a dialogue with the FMLN would not have the capacity to make decisions at a given moment. Has there been any consideration given to providing the high-level commission with enough power to make important decisions?
[D'Aubuisson] The president of the Republic is the one who will make the important decisions.

[Reporter] This means he will be directly involved in the commission?
[D'Aubuisson] The commission is what will break the ice for holding a dialogue with the FMLN. Its only objective is to transmit the thoughts of the people and government of El Salvador to these men, and to listen to their concerns. It will naturally have sufficient flexibility and the capacity to attend a dialogue. However, any important decision will be made by President Cristiani, but before he decides the Salvadoran people will also be notified. No decision will be made behind the people's backs. In other words, this is a mechanism and they will be mediators.

[Reporter] Major, on the other hand, what do you think of the role played by the opposition political parties who met in Mexico, who brought the letter, who took information to the FMLN? Are they playing an objective role? Does the government appreciate the role they are playing?
[D'Aubuisson] Actually, they were trying not to be left out of all the action. After they got used to the rejection of the Salvadoran people, they decided to go ahead. I think their role has been somewhat important, but not extremely important. They just wanted to gain a little fame.

I think the CD actually beat everyone on this one, because they are now improving their 3 percent by just meeting with the fish and the PCN [National Conciliation Party]. I do not know how much good it will do the PCN and the fish to continue messing around with these CD mangy dogs. The CD has not given any true evidence yet that it has broken all ties with the FMLN. They are still messing around with them.

The interesting aspect of all this is the people who have been so critical. For example, I would like to ask Dr Ungo a question right now: Are you going to start working? Why do you live so well? You do not work. Who is giving you money to live, to travel, to finance your committee? He keeps criticizing everyone, but I wonder what he does for a living. We people from ARENA all engage in political activities, but we also work for a living and honestly earn our salaries and support our children. He is the one who criticizes the most. Who gives him money? The mangy dogs? Why does he not tell us one day who gives him money?

This is something the fish and the PCN did not stop to think about. They were actually being used so the others could appear as good guys. The CD leaders go to Mexico or someplace else, and then they take the fish with them. Regardless of whether they were corrupt in El Salvador, they are now being used as a screen. The same goes for the PCN. In this way the CD leaders are covering up for themselves.

But if they want to continue doing this, they should meet with all political parties. We could then have an interparty commission to seek a solution to the violent situation and achieve peace, which is the goal.

[Reporter] Does this mean recovering in some way what had already been discussed at Oaxtepec, for example, where ARENA participated in these conversations? Whatever happened to this effort? Not much has been said about Oaxtepec.

[D'Aubuisson] We see it here. This effort is yielding results now. It is no longer the decision of a tactical dialogue, like the ones that were exploited in the past. It is a reality now. The commission will be appointed. Cristiani delivered a speech to this effect and made this commitment. There is also the commitment that was made during the electoral campaign, and now we will see the reality.

[Reporter] Major, on the other hand, and staying on this topic, people are wondering. Is there going to be a dialogue or a negotiation? The controversy continues: dialogue or negotiation?

[D'Aubuisson] Look, let us not get overly excited about this. We must break the ice and start talking. Things will be discussed there. What do we want? There will be negotiation and dialogue, but let us not get too excited. The important thing is that we sit down and talk. It is called a dialogue. They cannot negotiate anything that is unconstitutional. Solutions will be sought. Why do we want to know now whether it will be a girl or a boy? Let us wait for the baby to be born first.

[Reporter] Some people say power will be negotiated, and some opposition members say power cannot be negotiated, so what is going to be negotiated?

[D'Aubuisson] We have to talk about the mechanisms and the measures that can be taken so that peace can be attained for the Salvadoran people. These are the things that get people excited. People start thinking that power will be negotiated. Let them sit down and we will see what happens next.

[Reporter] To see what the business is.
[D'Aubuisson] Exactly.

[Reporter] What type of negotiation does ARENA expect to participate in? There used to be a 28-point proposal which talked about the creation of armies and the division of certain territories. This proposal was later changed to the proposal we learned about in January of this year, in which the guerrillas said that if the elections were postponed they would respect the election process. What do you think the FMLN will request in this dialogue?
[D'Aubuisson] I am not going to speculate as to what they will request because they have always changed their demands. They are always making more requests. I can answer your question by telling you what we will say to them. We can offer them a law, a legal plan that can allow them to return to civilian life.

[Reporter] An amnesty, for example?
[D'Aubuisson] Let us not call it that, because if you say amnesty they will say that an amnesty is for someone who has been defeated. There are no winners or losers here. Let us not call it amnesty. Let us call it, for example, a law for voluntary demobilization and for permanent peace. The purpose of this law is to give those who are participating in the guerrilla movement the option of returning to civilian life and having their rights recognized. If they want to keep their names, if they want to change their names, or if they want to go to peasant settlements they may do so. The purpose is to have people return to a normal civilian life. I can guarantee you that this is what we can tell them.

They ought to stop attacking the electrical power lines, which cannot defend themselves. Some of them are really brave. You can see how they bravely attack the power lines and towers. They should give up that type of fight and join civilian life. I can guarantee that this is the type of thing we can offer them. Let us see what else the commission can offer them.

[Reporter] Major, is this in keeping with the Tela, Honduras agreements, which called for the demobilization of the contras and for a dialogue in this country?
[D'Aubuisson] Exactly, it is all part of this agreement. This is what President Cristiani went to propose because it was a political commitment already made here, which was accepted, thank God.

Now that you are talking about the contras, let me tell you this. The Costa del Sol agreements only favored Nicaragua's position with regard to the contras because it called for the demobilization of the contras. We thought that it was inappropriate to discuss this point alone. That is why—in meetings we have held with Central American political leaders—we decided to sell the idea that the contras have no obligation to turn over their weapons. Who can guarantee to the contras that once they turn over their weapons the Sandinists will not launch an offensive and defeat them in 48 hours? After this happens only excuses will be heard and the contras will be regretting what they did. This must be taken into account as well. It is a matter of trust. Will the Central American people trust the Sandinists not to launch an offensive?

I have an idea, however. The contras could turn over their weapons to one of these commissions of UN or OAS observers. Once they turn over their weapons, they stop being the aggressors in Honduras. The Esquipulas II agreements state that no territory should be used to attack a neighbor, but if the contras turn over their weapons and expect the Sandinists to comply with the agreements, then the demobilization process would not be needed. These ideas were brought up at the Tela summit.

Democratic Convergence supporters have been talking on a radio program about the difference between the contras and the FMLN. They talk about the FMLN as gods and the contras as mercenaries. The contras are fighting, and they were and still are the only obstacle to Sandinist expansionism. The contras are fighting for a democratic government. They are fighting for the freedoms of the Nicaraguan people. The Democratic Convergence supporters refer to the FMLN as Robin Hoods.

What is happening with the mangy dogs here? What are they fighting for here? If they take power, what type of government would they bring? It would be a totalitarian government. The contras are fighting for the democratic freedoms of the Nicaraguan people. I believe things are going to go well for us. We are going to cooperate with the Tela agreements and we hope the other countries ask the FMLN to reason and to hold a dialogue with the commission. They can decide where their weapons will be turned in so they can return to civilian life.

[Reporter] Is there the possibility that the same procedure you have pointed out with regard to the contras will be used in the case of the FMLN as well? The FMLN may have the same fear. Who can guarantee to them that once they turn over their weapons the Salvadoran Government will not wipe them out?
[D'Aubuisson] It is more difficult for the FMLN. Perhaps it is easier for the contras because they are located in designated areas, although there are many contras inside Nicaraguan territory. The advantage for the FMLN is that the Salvadoran people and government have more credibility and can guarantee the process for their return to civilian life. It can be guaranteed because we are a democratic government, we are a people who want peace, and we believe we have more ethics and morals than the Communists. Besides, human rights are respected here. Everyone will see to it that human rights are respected once they begin returning to civilian life. In

communist countries human rights are not respected. That is why the contras are running a greater risk with the Sandinists once they begin to demobilize and return to civilian life, because there are serious doubts. However, here in El Salvador, the FMLN would have every advantage, and, once they begin to demobilize, the FMLN may even get grapes and apples from the large number of foreigners who will be here to hug the Robin Hoods of El Salvador.

[Reporter] Major, another interesting topic which has received the attention of the public is the case of former President Jose Napoleon Duarte, because of the embezzlement of a little over 500,000. However, this story goes back a long way, and I believe it all started with his statements during a cable television program when he even made serious accusations against you and the ARENA government. Then a period of accusations and counteraccusations began. What is really going on?
[D'Aubuisson] Duarte's statements have nothing to do with this. The whereabouts of the funds were being sought even before the statements were made. This whole thing was not a reaction to what Duarte said. Actually, what Duarte said is the same thing he had been saying all along during the campaign. The only difference is that on this case he became more confused. It was about his third different version of what he knows regarding the death of Msgr Romero. He also wanted to sow discord. His statements no longer have any value. Now he is accused of corruption. He cannot say that he put those checks in his personal account because of his good intentions toward the earthquake victims. The quake was back in 1986. If he put the money in his personal account, he should have invested the money in 1986, when the people needed it most. One of the checks was almost cashed when Rolando Duarte went to a bank to cash it. What if it had been cashed? Was the money going to be used for the earthquake victims?

It is a topic that has been [words indistinct]. Many other cases may come up later on, just as this one did. The sad thing about Duarte's check is that the money was to be used for the earthquake victims, who had no housing, no clothing, and maybe no food. Shame on Duarte for keeping the money for himself. Duarte could have stolen some other money, which would still be illegal and incorrect, but stealing the money of the victims is even worse.

[Reporter] Some newspaper headlines called it the embarrassing check.
[D'Aubuisson] It was an illegal and improper use of funds.

[Reporter] What happens now that the money has been returned?
[D'Aubuisson] I understand the legal action ends there. Duarte has returned the money he says was improperly used. Duarte did not use the money appropriately. He used the money for other purposes. However, I am not sure if the legal process has ended or not. I do not know if Ovidio Hernandez, for example, is involved because he deposited the checks in a personal account. I do not know what other steps will be taken by the judge or the attorney general's office in this matter.

[Reporter] Does the government plan to continue with this process, or has it said goodbye to former President Duarte?
[D'Aubuisson] This is no longer up to the government. The government has nothing else to do with it. It is now up to the judicial authorities and to the attorney general's office.

[Reporter] Major, another interesting topic, which greatly surprised everyone, is the statement you made about President Duarte having AIDS. Do you still believe Duarte has AIDS?
[D'Aubuisson] It may have been news for you at the time, but I had said it before. It was not a very elegant way—I admit it—of making up for all the charges made against me. However, I am still thinking about it. I have learned about a few cases of cancer, especially liver cancer, in which the patient dies right away. Either the greatest miracle of the century was made on this man, or he has AIDS. The fact is that when we speak about AIDS we only think about the negative aspects of the disease. We are often led to think that only homosexuals get the disease, but when a person has AIDS his body simply loses its immunity. When Duarte receives treatment, he loses his immunity. I admit, however, that I was not very polite when I called Duarte an old man with AIDS. I had already mentioned it before in public.

[Reporter] Major, another issue being discussed is that the ARENA government plans to undermine the agrarian reform process in this country. It is being said that you are the leader of this movement.
[D'Aubuisson] You should not even be making that type of statement, because you are the ones who confuse public opinion. We have said it. Why do they not start the investigations? We want agrarian reform to operate efficiently. We want a true agrarian reform. There has only been a change of government leadership. We want the peasants to be the owners of their lands and to feel secure.

[Reporter] Are the peasants confused?
[D'Aubuisson] No, the peasants are very clear. The peasants are happy because of our plans. A proof of this is that they voted for ARENA. The peasants are the ones who support us the most. The peasants are aware that they were exploited and used by the previous government. We want peasants to own their lands. The peasants may decide how they want their lands. Do they want a collective, individual, or mixed ownership system? We want them to own the lands. They can decide if they want to work collectively or if they want their lands for themselves. Land title deeds have already been given to the peasants. In the past they used to get land documents, which are worth nothing, because if the regional authority did not like a certain peasant the lands would be taken away from him. Today we are giving them title deeds. The Communists are the ones who first find out

where we are doing a good job because they start attacking those regions. Sometimes we in the party do not realize where we are doing a good job, but Communists find out immediately. The Communists noticed that there was work and tranquility in rural areas following the elections.

Once they found out about the situation in the rural areas, harassments and assassinations began so as to get our attention. This was because the Communists know that the rural areas have reacted favorably. They have already reached the conclusion that we are going to be successful in the implementation of the agrarian reform, which should be permanent. The agrarian reform process can be made in compliance with the laws and the Constitution without resorting to violence. The agrarian reform can be productive, and that is our goal. The agrarian reform in our country will be made productive.

[Reporter] There were reports that peasants were concerned because six cases had been decided in favor of the landowners and the lands were legally turned over to the owners.
[D'Aubuisson] I do not know if there were six or more cases. If we look at it from the legal point of view, serious mistakes were made when the lands were violently occupied. Many lands were improperly occupied. We have to look at the political aspects of this. We are looking for solutions for these people. If they cannot stay on those lands, they can take other lands, because there are about 33 land tracts that have been completely abandoned. Refugees and Army families may be brought to those regions. Even those who disagree with our agrarian reform plan can go there. No one will be abandoned.

[Reporter] Where are those 33 land tracts?
[D'Aubuisson] In different parts of the country.

[Reporter] In general terms, and to end this interview, do you believe this 5-year period will be one of peace and development in El Salvador?
[D'Aubuisson] Yes, and we are sure that we will win the elections in the first round in 1994. In this 5-year period we will enjoy the benefits of having an honest government and of being able to express ourselves democratically. There will be productivity and the people of El Salvador will once again feel proud of being Salvadorans. We will no longer need others to donate things to us because we can produce them here. We will continue working to rescue this ship so that it can sail efficiently.

[Reporter] Major, we want to thank you for visiting us today and for discussing all of the issues we covered. It has been interesting to listen to your points of view and those of your party regarding the various issues.
[D'Aubuisson] Thank you. This has been an interesting interview. I will always be willing to come back here and talk to you again.

[Reporter] Thank you, Major, and we thank all our viewers.

Rivera y Damas on Human Rights, Dialogue
PA2108034389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas today said that the "noticeable deterioration" of the country's human rights situation neutralizes the "moderate optimism" that exists concerning the beginning of talks between the government and the guerrillas.

"The guerrillas have intensified sabotage against public transport and the electric system, while the government is showing less flexibility. This leads us to emphasize confrontation and create conditions that are unfavorable to a dialogue," the religious leader said after his Sunday homily.

The rebels torched 38 public transport buses to protest an increase in bus fares and intensified sabotage against electrical lines over the past few days.

Leaders of several political parties this week handed to the clergyman a letter from the guerrillas in which the latter voice their willingness to start a dialogue with the government to end the war.

"The current good disposition toward the dialogue and the government's willingness to establish several commissions to pave the way to such a dialogue with the rebels are factors that could bring it to fruition," Rivera y Damas added.

He warned that "if there is a prevalence of the hard line" of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), Army, and government, "dialogue would undoubtedly be more difficult to achieve."

When asked to comment on government pressure on the media to reduce air time for the opposition, he said that "newsmen must fight against such a policy; we (the church) will maintain our efforts to preserve freedom of speech."

"The democratic process would be hindered if freedom of speech is limited," the clergyman added.

Claiming economic problems, Channel 6 Television fired two reporters from its "The Newscast" new program this week.

However, the fired reporters maintain that they were fired because of political pressure applied by the government of Alfredo Cristiani to limit time dedicated to the opposition during newscasts.

Four newsmen, including the newscast's press director, said that they resigned after the government started their campaign against freedom of the press.

Also, the "Up to Date" television news program has received economic pressure for giving air time to the opposition to criticize the government, press sources reported.

FMLN Issues Communique on Dialogue Proposal

PA1808230989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2145 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command in El Salvador on 18 August]

[Text] 1. In an effort to reopen the dialogue process in El Salvador, we have conducted the following actions in the last few weeks:

Meeting with the Salvadoran Permanent Committee of The National Debate;

Informal meeting with representatives of various U.S. political and social groups;

Meeting with representatives of the Salvadoran political parties PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and PCN [National Conciliation Party], as well as the member parties of the Democratic Convergence;

Meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias;

Letter sent to the Central American presidents during their summit in Tela. In that letter, we expressed our willingness to begin direct talks with the Salvadoran Government;

Letter sent to Mr Cristiani by means of the Salvadoran political parties regarding the dialogue commission;

Request sent to OAS and UN Secretaries General Joao Baena Soares and Javier Perez de Cuellar, respectively, asking them to participate in the negotiations in El Salvador within the framework of the Tela agreement;

Proposal to Mr Cristiani regarding dialogue mechanisms.

2. In the letter sent to Mr Cristiani through the political parties, we stated that the dialogue commission proposed by his government lacks authority and decision-making power, gives a very low profile to the talks, and takes the dialogue out of the national context by proposing to hold it abroad and without the independent participation of other forces.

Similarly, we told Mr Cristiani that we regarded the exclusion of Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas from the dialogue as a negative factor.

Regarding the dialogue mechanisms, we said we agreed to hold a preliminary dialogue provided the said dialogue would be attended by government officials, the Armed Forces chief, and FMLN representatives.

Likewise, we agreed to hold that preliminary dialogue in private and abroad. For that dialogue we also proposed the presence of foreign witnesses and the presence of political parties, private enterprise representatives, and representatives from the Permanent Committee for the National Debate as either guests or observers. We also proposed the presence of Archbishop Rivera y Damas as the moderator.

In addition, we insisted on the need to carry out actions that would contribute to an appropriate climate for the talks.

3. All these initiatives have been carried out in private to prevent the dialogue from being used for propaganda purposes and thus depriving it of its seriousness. Likewise, we have considered the opinions and suggestions made by the various forces. We have even incorporated some of Mr Cristiani's proposals. We believe that it is very difficult to open a true dialogue or negotiation if any of the two parties is inflexible in its stands.

4. We are in favor of a dialogue that will seek negotiation, and we are worried about the conditions prevailing in the country that do not favor that dialogue. The economic measures and the increase of repression that have been promoted by the government work against the dialogue and worsen the war. They also contradict the Tela agreements that commit the governments to democratization and conciliation. It must be noted that all the steps of the dialogue process and the measures and procedures that are adopted must be defined bilaterally and in private. If this is not done, it will turn the dialogue into an instrument of propaganda, without any positive results.

For our part, we are seriously willing to go to negotiations and find an overall and final solution to the conflict. Likewise, we are worried about the lack of unity in the spheres of power concerning the need for a negotiation with the FMLN, as well as the insistence by some sectors of the Armed Forces and of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] that the FMLN should surrender.

We urge all of these sectors to reconsider and adopt a more realistic attitude. We also urge all groups interested in peace to seek formulas for participating in the negotiations process. The FMLN General Command. [Signed] Commander Francisco Jovel, Commander Shafik Jorge Handal, Commander Eduardo Sancho, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Salvador Sanchez Ceren. El Salvador, 18 August 1989.

Armed Forces Comment on FMLN's New Missiles

PA2008030189 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Aug 89 pp 2, 13

[Text] The Army is preparing tactics to neutralize the use of antiaircraft missiles, similar to the SAM-7, that could have entered the country for FMLN-FDR terrorists, and to counter the arms escalation that the rebels are presently attempting.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, the Armed Forces joint chief of staff, stated on 16 August that the Army confiscated operation manuals for a 72-mm missile named "C2-M Fecha," which destroys itself 18 seconds after it has been fired and is made in the USSR.

At a restricted meeting with domestic and international reporters, the military officer explained that this particular missile can be fired from a distance of 4,200 meters, reaches an altitude of 2,800 meters, and tracks the heat emissions of aircraft as it is similar to the SAM-7 missile.

Ponce said that the terrorists must already be training in the use of the missile and that possibly a shipment of this new weapon has already entered the country, as the terrorists have already translated the manual into Spanish.

Col Ponce said that according to captured rebels, the FMLN-FDR has not used the missiles because it is waiting for its political leaders who are in Nicaragua to give them the authorization to do so. The officer added that weapons from the communist bloc continue to enter the country through Cuba and Nicaragua.

To counter such an imminent threat, the Army and Air Force are preparing themselves with the appropriate techniques as this type of missile hits helicopters and aircraft, he added.

Captured Subversive Reveals Urban Commando Plans

PA1908025389 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 Aug 89 pp 2, 21

[Text] The FMLN-FDR intend to increase terrorist attacks, murders, and destruction of public and private property, according to a man captured by the Treasury Police and charged with being a subversive.

Reports from the Treasury Police state that recently captured Edwin Urbina Henriquez, aka Juan, declared that the so-called "urban commandos" have orders to step up their attacks in the capital.

According to the prisoner, one of his last missions was to participate in the demonstrations at the National University, organized by the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] and other FMLN facade groups to provoke security agents so that they may be later accused of violating human rights.

Urbina Henriquez is a business administration student at the University of El Salvador [UES], and he is in charge of the finance committee of the so-called Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC), a party led by the leftist Ruben Zamora.

Urbina is accused of being a member of the terrorist group FPL [People's Liberation Forces] and of participating in the destruction of electric poles, public buses, and other terrorist actions.

According to Urbina's statement to the Treasury Police, he was recruited by Rene Antonio Cruz in September 1987 when he was a third-year business administration student at the UES. Cruz gave lectures on Marxism-Leninism at the Faculty of Economy.

Urbina said that on 17 April 1989 he and Ricardo, Walter, and Amilcar burned a bus covering Route 7 in Los Conacastes neighborhood, Soyapango. In May he participated in the destruction of another bus covering Route 6 at 5th North Street. He was carrying a 9-mm gun that Rene Cruz had given him, the report states.

The prisoner added that he and Walter, a terrorist, destroyed two electric poles near the Astor Theater, located on 5th North Street, Mejicanos.

He said that the different facade groups and the so-called urban commandos have received orders to increase their operations in the capital, above all to destroy more buses, poles, and telephone exchange boxes.

Buses To Provide Service Despite FMLN Threats

PA2008035689 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] Baltazar Chavez Buendia, president of the Association of Salvadoran Bus Owners, AEAS, today announced that all the businessmen affiliated with the organization have decided to continue providing services in the urban and inter-departmental routes, particularly in the metropolitan area of San Salvador, "as long as circumstances allow it." The announcement was made shortly before another emergency meeting was held to analyze the consequences of the sabotage recently perpetrated by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against some of the buses.

Chavez Buendia said that the AEAS Directorate Board and its affiliates throughout the country have declared themselves in permanent session, and they hold meetings on a daily basis to discuss the risks and threats that the association's members and other independent bus owners currently face in the national transportation sector. Chavez Buendia said that the rumors about an urban and inter-departmental bus drivers' strike are untrue. "We have not discussed or decided anything; and our decision to continue providing our services still stands—as long as circumstances allow it," he added.

He also explained that the association is constantly in contact with the minister of economy and the national director of land transportation, providing detailed reports of what takes place—thus giving the two officials an overall idea of the situation before the businessmen adopt any measure. Chavez Buendia added that the situation is critical for the bus owners, particularly those providing service in the urban sector, because the FMLN urban commandos destroyed 21 buses in the metropolitan area of San Salvador between 1 and 15 August, causing overall damage of 3 million colons—each bus

has an approximate value of 150,000 colons. The businessman emphasized that the business sector is analyzing the situation and gathering the necessary information to adopt decisions for the future, given the repercussions of the latest actions.

Chavez Buendia revealed that the rebels yesterday destroyed seven buses covering the urban area routes: Two ACOPAT [expansion unknown] buses covering Route 29, two buses covering Route 9, one bus covering Route 30, one bus covering Route 21, and one bus covering Route 7-C. He added that two buses covering Route 41-C were intercepted and destroyed this morning. He also explained that the rumor about a strike possibly began yesterday evening when the Route 29 bus owners decided to suspend their activities shortly before 1800 as a temporary measure to protect their other vehicles and workers.

Spokesmen of the General Directorate of Land Transportation, an agency within the Ministry of Economy, said they had no information about a strike in the urban or inter-departmental bus service. Quite the contrary, the agency knew that the bus owners had decided to continue providing services throughout the routes, particularly those in the capital and other cities within the metropolitan area.

Imelda Olsen de Duenas, assistant director general of land transportation, reported in an official communique that the bus fare adjustment is being implemented in the urban, department, and inter-departmental buses working under the so-called "differential system" as a result of a technical plan that is "just and convenient for the users." The communique issued to all the media also explains that "the 30-cent fare remains practically unaltered for the minimum 8-km trip." The report reasserts that the fare adjustment has been applied based on a technical, not political, evaluation to balance the operational costs with the businessmen's income.

Rebels Seize Church, Demand Medical Attention

PA2108181189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1939 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 August (DPA)—Approximately eight maimed, former Farabundo Marti Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels seized the San Salvador Cathedral when mass was being held this morning. The former rebels said they spoke for more than 100 comrades and demanded that the Alfredo Cristiani administration allow them to leave to receive medical attention in a foreign country.

This action surprised domestic and foreign media. It also dulled the presence of more than 50 bus drivers who had surrounded the cathedral with their buses to demand that Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas ask the FMLN to stop its campaign of burning vehicles to protest the 1 August increase in collective transportation fares.

The FMLN war cripples—all men except for a woman who identified herself only as Concepcion—did not have one or two of either their superior or inferior limbs, and two were blind because, according to them, they were victims of aircraft bombings.

The former rebels wore white capes with red lettering, some of which read: "FMLN," while others read: "We demand that international agreements on persons maimed by war be kept," or: "We have a right to live and recover and we request that Cristiani's government respect and keep the international agreements on persons maimed by war."

The San Salvador Cathedral, located in the center of the city, had a particularly big turnout of parishioners today, the usual amount of domestic and foreign reporters, and, apparently, security agents dressed as civilians. Police patrol vehicles also surveilled the area. One of the group's spokesmen fully identified himself as Israel Antonio Quintanilla, explaining that "we have not really taken over the church. The church will remain open for parishioners to enter as they please, but our group will remain inside until the archbishop talks to us and the Cristiani government gives a definite answer to our demand that we be evacuated out of the country."

Israel said, "We also demand that this government and the Armed Forces respect human rights and international agreements on human rights. The Armed Forces bomb FMLN hospitals, many cripples are snatched away, and some have even been murdered while the International Red Cross transfers them to official hospitals."

The takeover has the backing of the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People of El Salvador, who have said that "knowing how the Armed Forces would react, we have harbored cripples for humanitarian reasons because they cannot return to their places of origin."

Spokesman Israel Quintanilla recalled that, in April, when the Christian Democratic Party government was about to leave power, the evacuation of at least 108 cripples were authorized, but because the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, party opposed this, it was not done. Once again the cripples demand that international agreements be respected.

Lucio, who had his right leg amputated, said that some 15 months ago he lost his leg in combat and would like to travel to Cuba to receive medical attention and get an artificial limb. "Here in this small group, we make very little difference to any organization. We all belong to the FMLN and speak on behalf of all the country's maimed who are in camps, hospitals, and jails," Lucio said.

The cathedral occupants called upon the International Red Cross, international humanitarian organizations, and the press to be alert to the situation inside the church to ensure nothing happens to them and that no actions are attempted against them.

However, they said that "we already hold the Cristiani government, a government for the rich and the Armed Forces, responsible for what may happen to us."

The FMLN cripples, in addition to their own situation, also discussed the case of crippled Army soldiers, calling for them to join them because they also do not receive the needed just and humanitarian treatment, according to reports made by relatives. There are families who have relatives both in the Armed Forces and among the guerrillas.

Archbishop Rivera y Damas had no time today to talk with the cripples, but he said he will study the situation because the church has always acted as a moderator and even as an intermediary and this is a part of humanizing the conflict.

Workers Advocate Creation of Single Front

PA1908160489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] The UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers], UNOC [National Peasant-Worker Unity], FUT [Single Workers Front], and STIUSA [Trade Union of United Textile Industries, Inc.] today advocated the creation of a single front to defend, they say, the rights of the workers. In a news conference this morning, trade union leaders said that they were worried about an alleged setback in agrarian reform.

The labor union representatives emphasized that for 2 consecutive days they analyzed the various problems that affect workers in urban and rural areas. They specifically studied the problems of agrarian reform, as they feel there is a significant setback. Speaking on behalf of the other trade union leaders, Simon Parada stated that city workers will join efforts with rural workers to defend agrarian reform.

[Begin Parada recording] We believe that we, the peasants and the trade unions, cannot tolerate this problem any longer. We are evaluating this problem, therefore we want to make a joint announcement at this time. The peasant organizations will not be left alone in this fight; all organized workers will join the struggle. Urban and rural workers are united to fight for our common problems. [end recording]

They also emphasized that the Supreme Court of Justice no longer accepts writs of amparo that are presented by the peasants, which they feel closes legal paths and forces them to adopt forceful measures.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] With these measures, [President Alfredo] Cristiani shows that he is not willing to negotiate. Therefore, he is making the ground more fertile for the guerrillas. When all legal paths are closed to the solution of the problems of either the workers or peasants, we then have no choice but to adopt forceful actions. [end recording]

Among other things, they demanded that the amendment to the foreign trade law, particularly the section dealing with coffee exports, not be eliminated, since they they feel this measure will affect the peasant sector even more and in a more direct manner. In concluding, the organizations said that they have decided to work jointly in favor of the interests of the people. However, they clarified that they do not seek to destabilize the government, but rather to make proposals based on the reality.

Rebel Radio Airs 15, 17 Aug Battle Reports

PA2208034689

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of battle reports issued by (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador on 15 and 17 August.

15 August [0000 GMT]

The station first reports that "in heavy clashes in Villa Victoria, Military Detachment No 2 troops sustained 11 casualties; the aerial support at high altitude was ineffective." The station adds that on "14 August, at 1045, a guerrilla unit ambushed troops from [?Atlacatl] Battalion, 1st Company in La Pena Hill, Villa Victoria. The enemy sustained 10 casualties during the 40 minute skirmish, although it received support from a helicopter gunship and a [Hughes] 500-MD known as the little bee." Venceremos then adds that "also on 14 August, at 1400, these same troops walked into a mine field. Our troops inflicted a total of 11 casualties on the enemy in Villa Victoria, Cabanas Department"

Another report received from Cacahuatique indicates that "on 11 August at 1630 in Morazan Department, our units inflicted 4 casualties on the 3d Infantry Brigade troops of Col Mauricio Vargas using rifle fire and hand grenades." Further reports received from Morazan indicate that "on 14 August at daybreak, FMLN units using hand grenades attacked Military Detachment No 4 posts in downtown Osicala. At 0800, an FMLN sniper unit inflicted one casualty on Military Detachment No 4 troops."

The station claims it has received a report from Chalatenango on an "FMLN attack on 13 August in El Refugio Municipality, along the road leaving La Palma Municipality, using mortar fire and grenades, killing one and wounding one of the enemy troops." The same report adds that "on 11 August, our units using rifle fire inflicted one casualty upon sailors in La Piragua, Jucuaran." Also in Jucuaran on Sunday, 13 August, "an FMLN guerrillas unit, using mines, inflicted one casualty on Oromontique Battalion troops."

In addition, "our units sabotaged the electricity system on the road to Concepcion and on the Panamerican Highway in La Union Department." Venceremos adds it has received a report "denying a Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] report saying it had killed 15 FMLN soldiers in San Luis de la Reina. The San Luis de la Reina comrades strongly deny this Coprefa report."

17 August [1215 GMT]

The first report indicates that "at 1300 on Wednesday, 16 August, a guerrilla group opened fire with its antiaircraft weapons on a UH-1H transportation helicopter in the area of San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department." The report adds that "the helicopter sustained considerable damage and one of its artillery men was critically wounded."

The next report says that "on Tuesday, 15 August, guerrilla forces ambushed two Cavalry Regiment vehicles at Cerro Avila on the road between Ilobasco and Sensuntepeque, San Isidro Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department." The information reveals that "the explosion of two devices destroyed one of the trucks" and "the enemy sustained at least 17 casualties."

Additional information received by the station indicates that "at 1000 on Wednesday, 16 August, a clash occurred in Los Velasquez, San Luis de la Reina jurisdiction, northern San Miguel Department," where the Arce Battalion sustained "one casualty."

The report received from the Anastasio Aquino Para-Central front says that "at 0900 on Wednesday, 16 August, a National Guard patrol was attacked at La Cuestona, on the road to Ilobasco," adding that "one National Guard member was killed, one was wounded, and one G-3 rifle was seized." The report adds that "the other National Guard members ran pell-mell from the area."

Furthermore, "on Wednesday 16 August rebel forces attacked a National Guard post in Cerro El Roble, Tejutla Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department" and "caused one casualty."

A report from Guazapa Hill said that "at 1100 on 16 August the Atlacatl Battalion sustained one casualty in Piedra Labrada, San Jose Guayabal jurisdiction." The information adds that "another clash occurred that same day, at 1300, in Tejutla," where the rebel forces "caused two casualties."

FMLN Ambush, Electricity Sabotage Reported

PA2008151489

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 18 August broadcasts approximately 3 minutes of reports on recent Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) actions.

The station first carries a report from Chalatenango, which says that at 0805 on 17 August in northern Chalatenango Department, "FMLN units ambushed Army troops between Tejutla and El Salitre, inflicting five casualties on the enemy, including the chief of the unit, the radio operator, and a soldier. Helicopters arrived 1 and ½ hours later to evacuate the personnel attacked by our forces."

The radio then reports on an operation that "has left 70 percent of the country without electricity, including much of San Salvador, as the result of a coordinated sabotage operation of the main electricity lines. The first report received on this operation indicates that on at 0200 on 17 August our units blew up four power towers: Aguacayo, Los Ramirez, Los Laureles, and La Labor Cantons." Other reports add that FMLN guerrillas blew up "two power towers of the Cerron Grande line," in Llano Largo, Jutiapa, Cabanas Department, which left "70 percent of the country without electricity."

Guatemala

Army Kills Nine Peasants by Mistake 17 Aug

PA2008022689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1820 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Fire Department sources reported today that Guatemalan Army troops killed nine peasants by mistake on 17 August. The soldiers mistook the peasants, who were Civil Self-Defense Patrol (PAC) members, for a rebel column.

According to the same source, military officials have stated that the incident, where three peasants were also wounded, had been a "tragic mistake."

The incident took place when northeastern Coban Base troops mistook the civilian patrol for a rebel column and attacked it. The attack resulted in 9 Indian peasants killed and 3 wounded, including a 17-year-old.

According to the information supplied by the Coban Fire Department, the incident took place when a PAC patrol was combing the area for a rebel column that had been seen in the "La Providencia" farming community area.

The civilian patrol was returning to its community on 17 August, when the Army troops, who were also searching for the rebel column, fired at them believing they were part of a rebel group.

The civilian patrol unit, approximately 70 persons, did not fire back at the soldiers. According to the account given by one of the survivors, the civilians shouted and made signs to the troops until, finally, the soldiers realized their error. The soldiers, however, realized their mistake only after nine civilians had been killed.

Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo was queried about the incident. He said it was caused by "regrettable confusion" and that an Army Command Staff commission had already been sent to investigate it.

Gramajo said the commission is to establish how the incident occurred, but admitted that initial reports indicate that there had been confusion between Army and PAC units.

The military chief said: "The information we have up to now is confusing as both the Army and PAC had moved men because there were reports that a rebel unit was in the area."

Police Report 3 Killed in Guerrilla Attacks

PA1908030889 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Aug 89 p 31

[Text] Four [figure as published] guerrilla attacks carried out over the past few hours in the country's southwestern area have left a total of five [figure as published] persons killed and considerable damage, according to a police report.

The rebels attacked the village of San Francisco and shot to death the military chief, the assistant mayor, and a woman.

The victims were identified as military chief Jesus Romulo Ochoa, 37, deputy mayor Francisco Aguilar, 33, and Mrs Gregoria Ochoa, 55. All the bodies showed several gun shots wounds, which killed them instantly.

The report adds that the three victims had earlier captured two rebels. As they were going to hand them over to the military detachment in La Montanita, Malacatan Municipality, they were surprised by 10 guerrillas who opened fire and rescued their comrades.

Army soldiers clashed with members of a guerrilla column that was obstructing traffic on the Pacific highway at the 136-km marker, but there is no word on the number of casualties on each side.

The rebels had stopped a Rebuli transportation company van and forced the passengers to get out to listen to their statements.

Traveling in the van were Treasury Police Officer Lorenzo Sen Lopez, 49, and National Police Officer Melvin Duque, 29. The guerrillas seized their military equipment, when a white truck suddenly appeared and the clash ensued. Afterwards the guerrillas entered the San Jorge Farm, in San Jose El Idolo Municipality.

Another guerrilla column blocked traffic on the Pacific highway at the 73-km marker. In this action the rebels seized a gun from Jose Luis Orellana, 27, who was driving a white pick-up truck, and they fired several shots at the vehicle's left door. It was also reported that drivers along this major highway were forced to park to hear a guerrilla's statements.

Sister of GAM Leader Ordon Camey Abducted

PA2008023289 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] GAM [Mutual Support Group] leaders have reported that one of the organization's members, Maria Rumalda Carmey, was abducted by armed men who used violence to snatch her from her house in Escuintla on 14 August.

Nineth Montenegro de Garcia said that Mrs Carmey is the sister of GAM Leader Eleodoro Ordon Camey, who was also abducted and later murdered.

She added that four members of the Camey family have been abducted and murdered.

Wave of Violence Claims 5 Lives, Injures Many

PA1808225989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan official spokesmen have reported that five persons were killed, including both rebels and civilians, in clashes with guerrillas, and that two persons were injured in different grenade attacks reported a few hours ago in Guatemala City.

According to these sources, Felipe Antonio Zamora, 36, former narcotics chief of the National Police, and his companion Edgar Rolando Aguirre were killed on 12 August during a rebel attack in the northern area of the country as the two men were returning to the Mexican city of Tapachula.

In addition, two guerrillas were killed in fighting with the Army in southern Escuintla Department when approximately 50 guerrillas demanded that the passengers on a public bus pay a war tax. The body of a man who had been hit by a grenade in his legs was also found in this department.

The official sources also reported that Felisa Mayen, 27, and Oscar Lara, 47, were seriously injured when a grenade exploded in a street in Guatemala City's southern sector.

The offices of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), made up of the relatives of the 40,000 persons missing throughout 2 decades of military regimes, and the offices of the International Peace Brigades were the the targets of two terrorist attacks.

According to the police, one bomb destroyed GAM's office doors, windows, sanitary facilities, desks, and some furniture.

GAM leader Nineth de Garcia said the attack endangered the lives of several children who were on the building's second floor.

Meanwhile, unidentified persons also threw fragmentation grenades at the office of the International Peace Brigades. The five persons who were inside the building were unhurt.

These incidents add to a series of terrorist attacks reported in Guatemala in recent weeks and are part of the wave of violence that has left several people injured, as well as huge financial losses.

Honduras

Nicaraguan Extradition Request of Pilot Rejected

PA2108181789 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 17 Aug 89 p 40

[Text] In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Justice has denied the request for the extradition of the Sandinist pilot who fled from Nicaragua and received asylum in Honduras on 23 February.

Vilma Matute, the spokesperson for the Supreme Court of Justice, confirmed this report to EL HERALDO. During the judicial process Matute replaced court secretary Juan Carlos Perez Arina, who could not work in this capacity because his father, Lawyer Eliseo Perez Cadalso, was in charge of the defense of the Sandinist pilot, Edwin Rafael Estrada Leiva.

Estrada Leiva fled his country in a helicopter at the beginning of this year. The helicopter is in the possession of the Honduran Armed Forces, but Daniel Ortega's government is demanding its return.

The extradition was requested through Rossana Eleonora Espinoza Ordonez, who was assigned to handle the case in Honduras. The Ministry of Government and Justice, taking into consideration that Estrada was being persecuted for political reasons, granted the pilot political asylum on 23 February.

The extradition request reached the Supreme Court of Justice on 27 May, and the court assigned Magistrate Joaquin Donato Alcerro to study the case to rule if the Sandinist request should be granted or not.

After thoroughly examining the case, Lawyer Alcerro dismissed the Nicaraguan Government's request. According to the law, however, the case was reexamined by the entire Supreme Court of Justice, which confirmed the magistrate's ruling on 29 July.

According to Matute, Magistrate Joaquin Donato Alcerro based his rejection of the extradition request on the fact that in the Honduran military code there is no classification for either "terrorism" or "piracy."

The Honduran Government still has not said if it will return the helicopter in which Pilot Edwin Rafael Estrada Leiva fled from Nicaragua.

FRG Vice Chancellor Visits, Supports Tela

PA1908022589 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] The FRG is ready to be part of the international peace-keeping force that will be in charge of watching over the Honduran border with Nicaragua and El Salvador.

FRG Vice Chancellor Helmut Schafer said yesterday: "The FRG has made commitments and we will fulfill them by being part of that peace-keeping force as soon as the UN mandate enters into effect."

Honduras requested the formation of an international peace-keeping force through the United Nations, and it will be formed by Canada, Spain, and the FRG.

The international force's main goal is to prevent armed groups from using Honduran territory to attack the Nicaraguan and the Salvadoran Governments.

The peace-keeping force will also make sure the Sandinist government does not send weapons to the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and will prevent the Sandinist government from infiltrating armed groups intending to destabilize the Honduran Government.

Schafer clarified: "Thus far, no Central American president has communicated to the FRG his wish or intention regarding the Tela summit, and the United Nations has not talked with the FRG Government about the international peace-keeping force."

Vice Chancellor Schafer met with Honduran President Jose Azcona to learn about the possibilities to attain peace in Central America after the signing of the Tela agreement by the five Central American presidents.

Schafer said: "We are pleased with the results of the Tela summit. We believe the summit is decisive progress for the regional peace process."

The FRG vice chancellor said the FRG trusts the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras will take place in accordance with the Tela agreement, "but if it is feasible to carry out that demobilization as soon as possible, it would have even better results."

Schafer added the FRG also hopes the Sandinist regime abides by the agreements signed with the Nicaraguan political opposition and that the February 1990 elections are free elections.

Schafer said: "We are aware of the concessions the Sandinist government has granted the local opposition. We have to see whether those concessions are maintained and if the opposition political parties have equal opportunities to participate in the elections."

Violence During University Student Elections
PA2008213689 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Report by Renato de Jesus Alvarez—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Every year around this time conflicts arise at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. There are gunshots, wounded people, and mutual accusations. The student members of the United Front of Democratic University Students [FUUD], the Revolutionary University Force [FUR], and the University Reform Front [FRU] clashed violently yesterday during the FEUH [Honduran Federation of University Students] executive committee elections. The incident resulted in a medical student being wounded by a shot to the forehead. FUR and FRU students accused Freddy Espinoza, alias El Muco, president of the school of engineering student association, of firing the weapon that wounded Ivan Trejo, who is not in serious condition. What started the fight? According to FUR member Rafael Rivera Mejia:

[Rivera Mejia] "The shoot-out started when FUR members and other university students protested the destruction of a ballot box in building 4B."

A FUR member reacted in the following manner to the incident caused by FUUD members:

[Unidentified person] "Those guys were policemen. It is a fact that FUUD members are DIN [Department of National Investigation] and G-2 [Military Intelligence] members; they are a paramilitary unit. This can be proven by the fact that they pulled out machineguns and pistols to attack students. The incident was not a confrontation among student organizations, it was a confrontation between FUUD and the rest of the university students. It was a total lack of respect for the student body and we all repudiate this action."

Hundreds of students confirmed that they had seen FUUD leaders take out pistols and an Israeli Uzi machinegun and fire them. The FUUD presidential candidate Gerardo Aguero rejected the accusations:

[Aguero] "I completely reject these accusations. We have not used any weapons."

[Reporter] "A student named Freddy Espinoza is the one being accused. They say he is a contra or a member of state security. Is this true?"

[Aguero] "I deny these accusations. They are not true. He is not a contra. He is a university student."

[Reporter] "Is he Nicaraguan? They say he is the president of the law students association. [word indistinct] They call him Muco."

[Aguero] "I do not know."

[Reporter] "It has been confirmed that students were wounded during the incident. One of them was Ivan Trejos, a 5th year medical student. He was taken to the hospital. The other person wounded, although not seriously, was Mr Urquia, who belongs to the university corps [not further identified]."

[Aguera] "I do not know anything. These are only their versions of what happened..."

[Reporter, interrupting] "But, Gerardo, a good number of students heard the shooting here on the university campus. Something did happen."

[Aguero] "I do not know anything about it."

[Reporter] "You did not hear anything and reportedly you were at the place were the incident took place?"

[Aguero] "I was not there. I left that area and went to the School of Economics to see how the elections were coming along there."

[Reporter] "Your students have even stated that they defended the ballot boxes, because the university corps had tried to destroy them and that this was the reason they used their weapons."

[Aguero] "I do not know if they used weapons. I do know that the electoral process was defended because students came to vote for democracy, peace, and freedom since early morning. We, the student group that defends these principles, had to defend the will of the student majority."

The problems between the university student fronts has a main cause. Ramon Antonio Briceno, FRU leader at the School of Economics, gives us the following explanation:

[Briceno] "The conflict started 7 years ago when FUUD fraudulently won the student body elections and have held on to power with repression ever since. At that time, they were supported by the Supreme Court of Justice, the then powerful [former General Gustavo Adolfo] Alvarez Martinez, and other, quote, pro-democratic organizations, unquote. For the past 7 years there has been constant repression at this university. The FUUD—that is the Armed Forces in disguise—talks about democracy, but all the elections held during this period have been fraudulent and they have managed to continue in power. It is a fact that a good number of FUUD members have a military background and had never been seen on this campus previously. So, the origin of this problem is the

students saying: We have had enough of electoral manipulation and their misappropriation of the, quote, democratic, unquote, process. We want it to be evident that the word democracy has a different meaning for them than for us."

[Reporter] "When did the FUUD call you to participate in these elections?"

[Briceno] "We were never called. We were surprised when they placed ballot boxes in the university buildings, supposedly to be used for elections. We had not been called."

[Reporter] "Was there an electoral council?"

[Briceno] "There is no electoral council. They never formed it. They have always rejected our petitions to go to elections. They have never accepted our proposal."

The FUUD leaders argue, however, that these so-called modern practices of democracy were also practiced by the leftist fronts before 1982.

Nicaragua

Leftist Parties Request Continuation of Dialogue

PA2008143389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1832 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 19 Aug (DPA)—The leftist parties in Nicaragua today asked the government to continue the national dialogue that President Daniel Ortega began on 3 August during which several political agreements were signed by the president and the 21 Nicaraguan political parties.

The request for the continuation of the negotiations was made today by the Marxist-Leninist Peoples Action Movement (MAP-ML) and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), which along with President Ortega and the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has signed a document demanding the immediate demobilization of the contras in Honduras.

MAP-ML Secretary General Isidro Tellez said that the dialogue must continue "to create democratic opportunities for the workers and the masses."

The Marxists believe that during the dialogue, guidelines that will guarantee decent wages for workers, the establishment of a people's militia law and union councils [cabildos sindicales], and other labor demands should be adopted.

PRT Secretary General Bonifacio Miranda believes that "the dialogue is necessary because we are at a disadvantage in relation to the right and what we seek are equitable conditions."

Miranda added that the "National Opposition Union (coalition made up of 12 Nicaraguan political parties of various ideologies) will receive millions of dollars from the imperialists, while the leftist parties must make do with what they receive from their supporters."

In conclusion, the PRT stated that the three extreme-left parties in Nicaragua (MAP-ML, PRT, and the Movement of Revolutionary Unity) should hold a bilateral dialogue with the government "to demand equitable conditions during the electoral process, and this means financial equality."

The national dialogue was held for 23 consecutive hours on 3 and 4 August. Following the dialogue, the government and the political parties signed 30 political agreements, including accords on the release of sick prisoners and those who have broken the public security and maintenance of order law.

The need to promote a civil service law was set forth in another agreement. The draft bill has been officially presented to the Nicaraguan National Assembly and is currently before a commission that will study it and present it to the plenum for discussion. The draft was presented to the assembly by the Democratic Conservative Party (PCD).

Relatives Claim 6,000 Political Prisoners Exist

PA2008023789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0503 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 18 Aug (AFP) — The 22 January Movement of Mothers of Political Prisoners today maintained that there are over 6,000 political prisoners in Nicaragua and not 1,515 as President Daniel Ortega maintained this morning.

During a news conference, the 22 January Movement of Mothers of Political Prisoners said they can prove with documents the existence of over 6,000 prisoners, adversaries of the Sandinist regime. The Movement of Mothers urged Ortega to "publish the true list" of political prisoners.

Ortega granted amnesty in March to 1,894 former national guardsmen. Only 39 of them remain in jail, in addition to the 1,515 prisoners linked to the contra guerrillas which the government officially admits to.

In a note addressed to Ortega, the Movement of Mothers asked him to decree a "total amnesty to attain the reconciliation" of Nicaraguans. The Movement of Mothers also asked the United Nations and the OAS to include them in the International Support and Verification Commission created to supervise the demobilization of contras in Honduras. Acording to the mothers, this will permit them to visit Nicaraguan prisons to "confirm the situation" of their sons who "were captured for political reasons or for alleged links" with the anti-Sandinist guerrillas.

At the beginning of this week, Ortega promised to release between 800 to 1,200 peasants who had joined the contras. The peasants' release has been requested by the pro-government National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen.

The government promised, as part of an agreement with the political parties reached at the beginning of August, to grant a total and unrestricted amnesty once the demobilization of some 12,000 contras stationed in Honduras is carried out.

Ortega To Release 150 Nueva Guinea Peasants

PA2108145589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega will release 150 peasants from the Nueva Guinea Zone on 24 August. Ortega will release the peasants and turn them over to their relatives in the presence of approximately 10,000 Nueva Guinea residents, who have personally suffered as a result of the mercenary war. The release is a result of the request presented by peasants from several Nueva Guinea neighborhoods to Agustin Lara, presidential delegate in the 5th Region. Approximately 1,200 peasants will be released and 700 of these are natives of the 5th Region.

Army Officer on Cease-Fire, Tela Agreements

PA2108174789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Colonel Hugo Torres, chief of the political directorate of the Sandinist People's Army, has again stated that the Nicaraguan people and government have the right to suspend the unilateral cease-fire in the event of a large-scale counterrevolutionary raid.

Nevertheless, the military commander said that contras do not represent a danger for the revolution because they are incapable of increasing their ranks.

[Begin Torres recording] We have abided by the president's mandate concerning the cease of military operations and the cease-fire. We have supported the commitments that the president of the republic has acquired on different occasions, the last of which was the pledge signed in Tela.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that we will remain idle if any counterrevolutionaries want to continue killing, kidnapping, and destroying the country's economy. They can still cause damage in the country. They still have several thousand armed men—especially after the approval of the last $66 million in humanitarian aid provided them with new uniforms, boots, and provisions—and allowed approximately 1,000 mercenaries to enter the country. Some of them had to hastily go back to Honduras after they received news that the Tela Agreements had been signed for their demobilization. [end recording]

Visiting FRG Official Comments on Elections

PA1908180389 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] FRG Deputy Foreign Minister Helmut Schafer today recommended to UN and OAS observers that if they come to Central America to gain firsthand knowledge of the situation in the area following the signing of the Tela Agreement, to first visit Nicaragua during the preelections period.

Following a meeting with representatives of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, the German official said he will follow closely the election process in Nicaragua. He described the agreement signed recently between the Nicaraguan Government and the political parties as positive.

[Begin Schafer recording in German, with superimposed Spanish translation] Following the Tela meeting, it is important to have suitable conditions to hold free and internationally-observed elections. It is important to have observers in Nicaragua not only on the day of the elections, but also during the period prior to the elections. [end recording]

Sandinist Deputy Carlos Tunnerman informed the visitor about the political situation in the country, especially about the intentions some parties have of forming illegal alliances.

The German deputy foreign minister will meet with government and opposition representatives. He has said that his government will give economic and technical aid to Nicaragua following the elections, once it verifies that the elections were democratic and free.

Center Party Leader Views Electoral Prospects

PA2208020889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Interview with Blanca Rojas, opposition leader and presidential candidate for the Central American Unionist Party, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The Nicaraguan Central American Unionist Party [PUCA] yesterday became the third Nicaraguan party opposing the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] to announce its presidential candidate. PUCA elected Blanca Rojas as its presidential candidate for the 1990 elections.

During the PUCA convention, the delegates of 14 departments and the Southern Automous region also elected Daniel Urcuyo Castillo to be the PUCA vice presidential candidate. Urcuyo was born in Bluefields.

In statements to this newscast, Blanca Rojas said PUCA's main goal if it reaches the presidency is to provide the Nicaraguan people with jobs and food.

[Rojas] I am not talking to you about my main goal, I am talking about our—PUCA's—main goal. PUCA wants to fullfill the demands that have been denied to the Nicaraguan people up until now. I believe my party will fulfill those demands. There are two basic goals. One is to provide the Nicaraguan people with jobs. The Nicaraguan people are demanding jobs. The second is to provide them with food. PUCA will make sure no Nicaraguan family lacks staple items on its table, especially the food that we produce in our own country like rice, beans, and corn.

We are not promising to solve large problems, such as housing, like other parties are doing. We are making promises we can keep.

[Reporter] How is PUCA organized? Many politicians claim PUCA is the smallest party in Nicaragua.

[Rojas] All politicians want to serve their own interests. That is a fact. We, I, however, can say PUCA is right now one of the political parties with the most support throughout the country. No other political party has the enormous support we have in the Atlantic region. Most of the inhabitants of the Nicaraguan Atlantic region trust us. Moreover, our vice presidential candidate Daniel Urcuyo Castillo is originally from Bluefields. He knows the problems that affect the Atlantic coast region and he has that region's support. I represent the Pacific Coast.

Yesterday we held our convention. Over 300 PUCA delegates from 14 different parts of the country attended the convention.

[Reporter] PUCA is organized in only 14 departments right now?

[Rojas] We have [word indistinct] in 14 departments. Our support, however, does not come just from departmental capitals, but also from the various municipalities of those 14 departments.

[Reporter] Now that PUCA has announced its presidential or electoral ticket, do you rule out the possibility of an alliance with any opposition coalition?

[Rojas] As a party, we believe PUCA is the option in the political polarization that exists in Nicaragua. We are the option between the FSLN and UNO [National Opposition Union]. We are the center.

We are willing to join other parties when and if those parties respect many of our postulates, which include the fact that we are a purely nationalistic, revolutionary, and anti-intervention party. In addition, we want those parties to take into account our political program, because that program not only deals with Nicaragua, but also with the entire Central American region. We believe that to solve the Nicaraguan and Central American problem, we must deal with each of the region's problems, because there is not only a Nicaraguan crisis, but a Central American crisis.

[Reporter] Thank you.

UNO Spokesman on Party Candidates, Contras

PA2208034889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Interview with National Opposition Union spokesman Gustavo Tablada by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tablada] On 15 August, the special commission that was assigned to draw up the UNO [National Opposition Union] draft election program presented the draft program to the UNO National Political Council.

At 0900 tomorrow, 22 August, all the UNO National Political Council members will meet to discuss and approve the draft election program so that UNO has an official election plan to present to the Nicaraguan people and the international community during the election process that we are about to begin in Nicaragua.

Tomorrow, we will also choose the dates when we will meet again to approve two basic things. One is the mechanisms we will use to choose our presidential and vice presidential candidates and our candidates for the National Assembly seats. The second is the immediate election of the UNO presidential and vice presidential candidates and the election of the UNO representatives to the National Assembly. I believe that within 10 days UNO will have all the elements that a political alliance needs to participate in the 1990 elections. Within 10 days we will present our election program and the candidates who would lead the [word indistinct] UNO lists.

[Reporter] When will you register UNO before the Council of Political Parties?

[Tablada] I believe we will do that almost immediately after we hold our meetings, especially taking into account the facts that time is passing by and that UNO has an official agreement. We are only gathering the necessary information to meet the requirements specified by the law. We are interpreting that law rather freely, since the mechanisms for the registration of candidates are not really regulated. Thus, we will meet the requirements and keep the decision UNO made earlier.

[Reporter] Dr Tablada, several counterrevolutionary leaders have said they will not lay down their weapons as the Tela Agreement says they must. What do you think about that?

[Tablada] I believe there are agreements that were signed and must be abided by. We have stated that the agreements signed by the Nicaraguan president and the Nicaraguan opposition political parties, and the agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Tela are extremely positive. They bring great hope for permanent and total peace in Nicaragua.

Words, however, are not enough. We have said that in addition to the agreements, we need strong political resolve. We also need to give clear evidence that such resolve exists and that must be done through the fulfillment of the written and well-drafted agreements.

The attainment of peace, what Nicaraguans need most, will be delayed insofar as time goes by and there is no clear evidence of true political resolve.

[Reporter] Thus, you would demand the immediate disarmament of the counterrevolution?

[Tablada] If that disarmament is a part of and goes in accordance with the Esquipulas II Agreement and the more recent Tela Agreement, I believe that disarmament should take place. I believe we would have to find the most appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the achievement of that goal in the shortest period of time, because the disarmament process is an overall part of the interests of all Central American people, particularly the Nicaraguan people.

Panama

Continued Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Maneuvers

Solis: No One To Be Saved

PA2108203989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2001 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 21 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma today warned that in a U.S. invasion of Panama no one would be saved, not even the traitors of the opposition, because if they are not attacked by U.S. soldiers those of us who support the government will attack them.

Solis Palma said: "The struggle between General Marc Cisneros (chief of the U.S. Army South in Panama) and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, or between George Bush and Noriega, will not be a boxing match in which they will be inside the ring and we will be spectators. It will be a war whose battlefield will be the entire national territory."

The head of the Executive Branch added: "Either we defend the nation together or the real Panamanians will confront the Panamanians who lend themselves to selling their homeland."

The Panamanian president added that Panama is facing the dilemma of a fight "that will be narrated by U.S. cannons, rifles, and sabotage of the Panamanian Government and vice versa."

Solis Palma said that he is committing himself to fight and not to tremble and that he will be at the front to face a U.S. attack on his country.

More From Solis on Situation

PA2208002389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Chief Executive, Manuel Solis Palma, yesterday inaugurated the final stretch of the Divisa-Las Tablas Highway in La Villa de los Santos. [passage omitted]

A cultural-political ceremony in honor of Solis followed. He was declared meritorious son of the heroic city of Los Santos and was handed a key to the city. During his speech, Solis Palma commented on the current political situation:

[Begin Solis recording] Many people are wrong; many are still asking for intervention. They want Cisneros to take over Panama, but they are failing to realize that the struggle between Cisneros and Commander Noriega, or between Bush and Commander Noriega, is not a boxing match in which they will be inside the ring and we will be the spectators. It would be a war the battlefield of which would be the entire national territory and no one would be spared, because no one would remain a spectator; if they do not attack the traitors, we will attack them. [applause]

We either defend the nation together or there will be a clash among Panamanians; between us, the authentic Panamanians, and those who have sold out our fatherland or are lending themselves to sell out our fatherland. [applause] This is the dilemma that faces us; this is the position that we must maintain. [end recording]

As for the national dialogue and the possibility that he remain as minister in charge of the presidency, Manuel Solis Palma said:

[Begin recording] [Solis] We are certainly seeking the country's unity and the preservation of peace. We will make every necessary effort and sacrifice to achieve those objectives. However, it is also important to defend our nationality and national liberation. The defense of these two principles sometimes creates problems.

[Reporter] Is it true that you will leave for Spain, Mr President?

[Solis] No, that is not true; there is nothing to that. At least [Solis chuckles], I have not been told that. Perhaps our proposal to the Spanish Embassy to make some ambassadorial changes has created speculation. However, the aim is absolutely not to open a position for me. [end recording]

Commando Warns of Reprisals

PA2108161889 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 21 Aug 89 pp 1,12

[Text] A Torrijist Commando issued its first communique in Santiago de Veraguas after it was firmly and actively created. The communique said that if U.S. Army South troops kill any member of the Panama Defense Forces, Panamanian citizen, or public employee, the members of the Torrijist Commando will take reprisals against the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] traitors, their civic [reference to the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] friends, and other responsible groups.

The commando members also urged opposition groups not to let themselves be dragged along by the wave of violence that the opposition leadership is trying to unleash in complicity with the U.S. Army South or the U.S. Southern Command, which violates the national sovereignty and canal treaties on a daily basis.

The communique issued by the Torrijist Commando in the city of Santiago de Veraguas concludes as follows: For the Fatherland, our lives.

Several civic, political, and state organizations have also issued statements concerning the current situation in the country, particularly concerning the U.S. Government's constant aggressions.

Ritter Says No Justification

PA2208005889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2309 GMT 21 Aug 89

[News conference by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter with local and international reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] It would seem as if the arbitrary interpretation of the [Torrijos-Carter] treaties in the sense that all military maneuvers that have been carried out are contemplated in the treaties is gaining strength, because the U.S. Government has repeated this too many times and because it has such a tremendous propaganda setup. There is even a U.S. Embassy note that explains—of course, without quoting any article from the treaties—that the United States has a right to carry out all the military maneuvers, and that in addition, they are going to continue to carry them out. Therefore, I consider it important for the diplomatic corps to have detailed information.

First, they [the diplomats] were shown films on the actions of aggression. Later, Colonel Palacios Gondola explained with the treaty maps what are known as pink, white, and brown areas to show that absolutely all of those maneuvers have been carried out outside the defense sites, outside the military coordination areas. They were given an explanation of the contents of the articles in the Panama Canal treaties that establish the U.S. obligation to coordinate with the Republic of Panama, not only those maneuvers, but also all of the convoys and air traffic. In this manner, they [the diplomats] are certain that absolutely all of those maneuvers violate the treaties and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Panama.

Likewise, the diplomatic corps were given a very brief summary of what happened in the national dialogue. Naturally, there is an obligation to maintain reservations about what is being discussed in the dialogue.

We respected that obligation. For that reason we did not give the diplomats any documents on the dialogue. We briefed them on the progress made and the difficulties faced in the dialogue.

Obviously, there is no need to stress that one of the difficulties the dialogue faced is the disproportionate presence of U.S. troops and war equipment in Panamanian territory.

[Reporter] What have been the results of your visit to the United Nations concerning the Panamanian situation?

[Ritter] I have talked about this several times. The consultation process within the UN Security Council is slow. All UN members must be consulted, especially the UN Security Council permanent members.

The purpose of our visit to the United Nations, however, was to draw the UN Security Council's attention to the dramatic and humiliating incidents that have been taking place in Panama. That purpose was fulfilled.

Regardless of the more or less prompt or slow assignment of a UN Security Council mission to Panama, it is important that Panama's voice was heard at the United Nations and that we called the world's attention to the imminent possibility of Panama becoming a setting of war.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the upcoming OAS foreign ministers' meeting in Washington? Will you attend the meeting? If so, what are your plans for that meeting?

[Ritter] We will attend the meeting. Part of our delegation is already in Washington. Mr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt [Executive Branch delegate at the national dialogue and government adviser] and myself will leave for Washington tomorrow to attend the OAS foreign ministers' consultation meeting.

At the meeting, we will discuss the report the OAS special mission comprised of the three OAS foreign ministers [Ecuadoran, Guatemalan, and Trinidadian and Tobagan] and the OAS secretary general—will present.

We will present the Panamanian Government's view on the way the national dialogue was handled and on the various proposals presented during the dialogue sessions. Obviously, we cannot reveal details of the position we will present at the OAS meeting until after this phase of the dialogue ends in the presence of the OAS members.

CODEHUCA Communique Denounces U.S. Acts

PA2108184689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 20 Aug 89 p 2-A

[Communique issued by the Central American Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CODEHUCA) in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 10 August]

[Text] In light of the reports received from the Panamanian National Human Rights Commission expressing a clear violation of the human rights of the Panamanian people, and in light of the possibility that these violations will increase within the framework of a U.S. military intervention, the Central American Commission for the Defense of Human Rights [CODEHUCA] requests your support in denouncing the following actions:

1. On 8 August 1989, an armored convoy of U.S. troops headed into Panamanian territory. Near the town of Arraijan, a group of Panamanian civilians carrying the Panamanian flag peacefully blocked the convoy's way in view of the fact that it was in Panamanian territory.

In light of the situation, highway patrolmen (non-military traffic policemen) intervened and talked to the soldiers who were part of the military convoy. The soldiers claimed "they were lost" and the highway patrolmen guided the convoy back to an area under U.S. jurisdiction.

Once inside the area under U.S. jurisdiction, the U.S. soldiers surrounded the Panamanian patrolmen and ordered them to raise their hands. The civilians who followed the convoy were searched and forced to kneel on the ground. The Panamanian flag they were carrying was torn by the U.S. soldiers.

As a result of this hostile act, 29 Panamanians were detained. In addition, a disinformation campaign was launched to make it appear that the Panamanians had attacked the U.S. troops stationed in that country.

2. On 9 August 1989, the Fort Amador area (reverted to Panama), was completely surrounded by U.S. troops. The headquarters for the Combined Board, the Panamanian and U.S. board responsible for the defense and security of the canal, is located on Fort Amador. An unknown number of guests who were touring the area on that day found themselves trapped. We have yet to establish how these guests were treated.

3. Gorgas Hospital, a U.S. hospital located in the former Canal Zone, has suspended all routine patient activities and is preparing for the possibility of having to handle emergency cases.

In light of the aforementioned charges, CODEHUCA states:

1. That the 9 August arrest and aggressive treatment of the Panamanians by the U.S. soldiers represent a trampling on Panama's sovereign rights, a violation of the norms of international law, and an act of military provocation that harms the right of the Panamanian nation to peace and self-determination.

2. That this kind of action also affects the peace processes that, with much effort and at a very high cost, the countries of the region are attempting to implement.

3. That under no circumstances can the United States assume the right to define, in one way or another, the internal situation of Panama independent of its expressed interests.

4. That it recognizes the efforts of the OAS in searching for a negotiated solution to the current crisis confronted by that country, and urges the organization to continue its efforts to resume the dialogue to solve the conflict.

San Jose, 10 August 1989.

Government Maneuvers During Negotiations

Espino on Possible Power Vacuum

PA2108160789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 20 Aug 89 pp 1, 10-A

[Text] "Who says that on 1 September there will be a 'power vacuum' in Panama? That notion has been promoted by the enemy who wants somehow to justify before the international community the great fury that it seeks to unleash against our people that will be followed by an armed aggression," Darinel Espino Zambrano, secretary general of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] has said.

Closing a meeting attended by the major PRD organizations, Espino clearly stated that those who speak of a "power vacuum" have a blind, opportunist, and egotistical attitude. They want to exercise power for the sake of having power.

Espino emphatically stressed that the PRD is preparing to continue the struggle for liberation and national independence, to find solutions for the Panamanian people, and he insisted that there will not be any "power vacuum." Evidence of this is contained in the proposals

made by each one of the special commissions that have delivered the preliminary reports on their contributions to achieve solutions to the urgent problems faced by the Republic of Panama.

The secretary general of the ruling party said that the PRD, as opposed to other parties that lurk in the shadows of aggression waiting "to see the body of their enemy pass" or "watching the bull from outside the bullring," is not only confronting the imperialist enemy and its backyard lackeys on the ideological front, but it is also facing the enemy in the field of international solidarity. The PRD is strengthening its ties with allied parties and organizations that understand and identify with our struggle for independence and national sovereignty.

The party leader said that the PRD is a party whose thousands of cadres are carefully organizing with a fighting spirit to repel the enemy in an armed confrontation if necessary.

He added that PRD's professional ranks, despite all the disinformation, psychological warfare, and economic, political, and military aggression against Panama, are enthusiastically and creatively preparing (with their modest economic resources) to defeat the enemy by finding practical but beneficial solutions to the most urgent social needs of our people.

Darinel Espino Z. pointed out that the PRD has in the past directed important tasks in the struggle to achieve development, decolonization, sovereignty, and national independence. "In the past, we fought alongside our party's founder, General Omar Torrijos Herrera, and today we will remain strong and united with enthusiasm and creativity alongside Omar's heir, General Manuel Antonio Noriega."

In conclusion, he urged all party militants to commit themselves to "cooperate with enthusiasm and faith in the implementation of the government's new responsibilities to achieve the goals that the work commissions want to accomplish."

Members of the National Executive Committee, National Directorate's Political Commission, National Secretariat and people's fronts, provincial party presidents and leaders of other areas, officials in charge of electoral circuits, and of special commissions participated in the meeting that took place at the ATLAPA Convention Center's La Huaca Theater to discuss the country's situation.

Pedro Pereira discussed a general political proposal and Gustavo Gonzalez and Rafael Mezquita discussed the main aspects of a PRD economic proposal. Also, the party's special commissions submitted their preliminary reports.

Fifteen commissions, which are under the guidance of Technical Coordination Secretary Reynaldo Rivera, in keeping with Article 47 of the party's statutes, submitted reports.

It was announced that the Assessment Commission will meet on 21 August at 1000 on the 15th floor of the Bank of Boston Building to systematize the work that has already been done and to determine the methodology to be followed to implement the recommendations during the next administration

Ritter Announces Proposed Junta

PA2108194389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1913 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Diplomatic sources today reported that the progovernment political parties of Panama, which are currently participating in a dialogue with the opposition, have proposed the creation of a provisional government junta that will be in charge of holding elections within 1 year.

The junta, which would be sworn in on 1 September, would be presided over by a notable person appointed by consensus between the opposition and the regime, a representative of the progovernment parties, and a representative of the opposition.

Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter announced the progovernment parties' initiative to the diplomatic corps accredited to Panama this morning.

The government, the opposition, and the military continued the talks—on a separate basis—with an OAS mission today to seek a negotiated solution to the Panamanian political crisis.

Continued Reportage at End of Tripartite Dialogue

'Pessimistic' Atmosphere Prevails

PA2108180889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text) Panama City, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The government, Armed Forces, and opposition started a new round of talks with the OAS mediating commission today. There is a markedly pessimistic atmosphere surrounding the possibility of reaching a negotiated solution to the crisis facing the country for the last 2 years.

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara, arriving at the building chosen for the talks (vacant offices of two banks that had to close because of the crisis), said, "I would like to be optimistic, but I do not see any possibility of reaching an understanding."

"The plebiscite was the only possibility of conciliation and they have rejected it," said Endara, referring to his proposal that Panamanians decide at the polls among the various options presented during the past month by the contending parties.

Another opposition leader, Ricardo Arias Calderon, told ACAN-EFE that today would be the last day of dialogue and tomorrow he will go to Washington, to be present on Wednesday at the plenary meeting of the OAS foreign ministers, in which the OAS commission will present its report on Panama for evaluation.

Meanwhile, government negotiator Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said today that "the dialogue will not end on August 23 because it is not an OAS dialogue. It is a dialogue between Panamanians." He added, "We (the government representatives) are willing to meet with the opposition as long as they want."

The members of the OAS commission headed by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez will also go to Washington tomorrow.

The direct dialogue between the opposition, the government, and the military has been interrupted since Friday because no progress was being made. According to the parties involved in the dialogue, the various proposals presented for a solution are "irreconcilable."

The opposition demands the withdrawal of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, as well as the acceptance of the opposition victory in the May 7 elections, which were later annulled.

The government forces, however, flatly reject those two demands and make any political agreement conditional on the lifting of the economic sanctions and military pressures with which the United States seeks to force Noriega's resignation.

Opposition spokesmen said today that no breakthrough had been achieved over the week-end, when talks were held with the OAS as a go-between in view of the collapse of direct talks.

OAS-Sponsored Talks End

PA2108195489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1933 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Government representative Romulo Escobar Bethancourt has disclosed that the meetings that the government, military, and opposition of Panama had been holding with the OAS ended without agreement today.

"The OAS presence in the dialogue has concluded," Escobar, the first to come out of the meeting, said shortly after 1400 (1900 GMT).

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara said: "The OAS assistance in the dialogue has ended."

Endara added: "We are at the disposal of the other side (the government and the military) for whatever they want to propose. Let us hope it is something new."

Escobar also said that the government "is willing to continue the talks."

The OAS promoted dialogue, which came about after the elections were annuled, to find a negotiated solution to the Panamanian crisis began on 16 July.

No Agreement at Conclusion

PA2208002189 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2209 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Maria del Carmen Saldana Ortiz report on conclusion of OAS dialogue, with interview of government representative Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt by unidentified reporter, in Panama City on 21 August—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The OAS mediation efforts have concluded without reaching an agreement between the government and the opposition. However, there might be other informal meetings among the parties, explained Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, representative of the Executive Branch to the tripartite dialogue. Escobar Bethancourt said the dialogue had not failed, because the very fact the groups held a meeting is a success.

[Escobar] "The dialogue we held concluded with the participation of OAS mission members, who are preparing to travel to Washington for the 23 August meeting. As we said this morning, we plan to maintain a broad and positive attitude, and continue holding conversations among ourselves, the Panamanians, to seek a peaceful and democratic solution to our problem.

[Reporter] "Does that mean [words indistinct] any meetings?

[Escobar] "There might be meetings if any of the parties requests one from the other, and it is deemed advisable. Naturally, there will not be formal meetings like the ones we are holding now, which include coming here every day to the OAS building. However, if we have a new idea or formula that could lead to a solution, we would then notify the counterpart. If they accept, then we would hold meetings, and vice versa. Therefore, we will maintain an open attitude regarding the dialogue among ourselves, the Panamanians, even if the OAS is not here.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Escobar] "I do not think this is a failure because just the fact that we met and held a dialogue, and the opening remains for us to continue the discussions is a success. If you will recall for nearly 2 years, we had not even been able to meet and discuss any subject that concerns us, the Panamanians."

Concerning the installation of a new government on 1 September, Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said the following:

[Escobar] "In order to expand the search for a solution, we proposed that the new government be installed on 1 September, should immediately begin discussions between the civilians and the military in order to find the formula for a relationship that would establish the firm bases for the operation of the civilian institution and military institution, without restricting any topic concerning the civilian problem and the military problem."

"All this will be done seeking the possibility of creating a new government. We pointed out the need for that government to include the opposition's participation so it can really represent a national agreement. We reiterated the need, once that government is installed on 1 September, for U.S. economic sanctions to end immediately, for the return to Panama of frozen funds, for U.S. military maneuvers to end, and for the withdrawal of the additional troops the United States sent in which violated the Torrijos-Carter treaties. We expanded on all those topics in the past days. Yesterday we fully expanded on them to reach a solution. No agreement has been reached with the opposition on this formula."

[Saldana] Regarding the obstacles in reaching an agreement between the government and the opposition Escobar said:

[Escobar] "There have been many obstacles. For example, there have been obstacles regarding the way we viewed the proposed government, the way we viewed discussions within that government on the topic of the problems the country is experiencing, and what was our capacity or lack of it, referring to the topic of military aggression, the releasing of frozen funds, and so forth. Many viewpoints were expressed in those meetings. We cannot detail them since we have not ended our communication with the opposition, and we deemed it appropriate not to detail aspects that might hamper the talks later on."

[Saldana] The Executive Branch representative at the dialogue said the government has taken the stance that matters regarding Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, the military command post, the Presidency, and any other public post falls within the purview of Panamanians.

[Escobar] "We must say that the stance of the Executive Branch, Panama Defense Forces [FDP] members, and leaders of the parties within COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] that attended the dialogue has consistently been as follows: First, all matters regarding Gen Noriega, the command post, the Presidency, any public post held by Panamanians in Panama is solely within the purview of Panamanians. In Noriega's case, as well as in the case of any other Panamanian official, we will never obey a U.S. order to leave a post because the United States says so. We have presented this point as an unyielding principle within our concept of the enforcement of sovereignty. We have insistently told the leaders of the opposition parties and OAS representatives this."

[Saldana] Moreover, ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] leader Guillermo Endara Galimany said that the OAS presence at the dialogue ended, but that the opposition is still available to hear what the other side wants to say, hopefully, something new.

[Endara in progress]"...more or less what we have been proposing for several days. The dialogue among Panamanians with OAS participation ends today. Thus, the meetings that began at 1000 and 1530 have ended. Nevertheless, we will be available to the other party for any proposal that it may care to make. Let us hope that any such proposals are new ones. We will be available for discussion of any other topic."

For his part, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon said:

[Arias Calderon] "The ADOC presidential candidates have participated with the best good faith in the tripartite dialogue with OAS presence in an effort to reach a national agreement that would ensure a transition of power by democratic means and with full respect for the Panamanian people's democratic will on 1 September. That was the tripartite dialogue's purpose.

"For 2 months the dialogue was carried out in the presence of the OAS foreign ministers mission, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks. To make it possible for the dialogue to begin, the ADOC candidates demonstrated great flexibility. In the dialogue we encountered irreconcilable positions between the regime and the opposition. In these circumstances, with true loyalty to the Panamanian people and based on OAS suggestions, the ADOC proposed a plebiscite, the only practical proposal that would be democratic, truly Panamanian, and perfectly viable, and that could help resolve the deep-seated differences existing between the two parties. This would ensure a transfer of power with full respect for the Panamanian people's will.

"No other practical proposal made during the dialogue could meet all these criteria. The main obstacle to the conciliation of positions was also the main obstacle to a democratic settlement. That obstacle has been, is now, and will continue to be Gen Noriega's retention of power."

As for what the ADOC expects of the meeting of OAS foreign ministers in Washington, Arias Calderon said:

[Arias Calderon] "We hope that the OAS mission's report will tell the truth, that it will state exactly what the main obstacle to a solution is. We hope that the foreign ministers will reaffirm in their meeting the absolute need for the Panamanian people's self-determination to be respected. The major obstacle to this is the one that I have mentioned."

Cordovez Hopes for Solution

PA2208003389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2333 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, who headed the OAS mediating mission in Panama, stated today that "an agreement was not reached for lack of time," shortly after the government and opposition negotiations ended without results. In statements to ACAN-EFE, Cordovez added that "a lot of progress was achieved and a possible solution formula was envisioned," but he did not disclose any details.

Cordovez was moderately hopeful of the possibility of securing a negotiated solution to the crisis "before 1 September" through new negotiations "which the Panamanians alone must undertake in the next phase."

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter told the diplomatic corps today of a proposal for a provisional "government junta" charged with holding elections in 1 year, made up of an independent personality, a politician of the regime, and an opposition member.

The OAS mission headed by the Ecuadoran foreign minister will travel to Washington tomorrow to prepare for the OAS plenary meeting on 23 August which will again study the Panamanian situation.

"There is a willingness on the part of the parties involved to secure a negotiated solution, although there are suspicions on both sides," Cordovez said, shortly after the OAS mission ended and before returning to Washington.

According to the Ecuadoran foreign minister, the talks managed to "dispel the existing taboos," clearly referring to the issue of whether or not General Manuel Antonio Noriega will stay on as the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] commander.

"The topic of Noriega was on the agenda and was discussed," Cordovez stated.

Cordovez described himself as a "professional negotiator" and on this occasion as a "friendly mediator" who tried to promote "formulas of agreement among the Panamanians."

The OAS mission president stated that the "Panamanian politicians have realized that the country's political system must be modified," and that "there is a willingness on the part of the FDP to speak of democratizing the relations between the civilians and the military."

Regarding Wednesday's OAS meeting in Washington, Cordovez said that it must "distill" the essential topics that appeared during the conversations and facilitate finding "a peaceful, democratic, and Panamanian solution" to this country's crisis.

Supreme Court Ruling on RPC Appeal

PA2108201289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 20 Aug 89 p 12-A

[Supreme Court ruling on Amparo for Constitutional Guarantees sought by Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion against the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue, issued 18 August—quotation marks as received]

[Text] Plenum of the Panamanian Supreme Court
8 August 1989
Whereas:

Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion [RPC] through its legal representative filed an amparo for the protection of its constitutional rights against the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue, calling for the cancellation of the order not to conduct the investigations mentioned in Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989.

In a lengthy document (pages 19-24) the petitioner states the following:

"Honorable Supreme Court Justices:

The undersigned, Morgan and Morgan, lawyers, with offices on Floor No 16 of the Swiss Bank Tower located on 53E Street in the Obarrio neighborhood in Panama City—which is where we can be reached for personal notifications—and with telephone No 63-8822, in our capacity as legal representatives of Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion—duly registered under File No 050426, Roll No 003357, Image No 0040 of the Commercial Registry Microfilm Section of the Public Registry Office—located in the Chesterfield Building, Jose Francisco De la Ossa Avenue in Calidonia Corregimiento, Panama City; with telephone No 25-0160 and postal address: Box 1795, Zone 1, have come to you to respectfully file a formal Amparo for Constitutional Guarantees against Enrique Sanson, in his capacity as chairman of the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue, so that, after compliance with the pertinent procedure, the Court will cancel the order mentioned in Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989 of the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue ordering the rejection of the proof

requested in the petition for reconsideration and the appeal against tax resolutions that affect our complainant, an order that includes the rejection of proof that had been originally accepted.

This case is being presented to the Supreme Court plenum because the Amparos for Constitutional Guarantees filed against authorities with command and jurisdiction throughout the Republic—such as the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue—are within the Court's cognizance.

The offices of Enrique Sanson, chairman of the Appeals Commission, are located on the 2d floor of the Finance and Treasury Ministry on Peru Avenue and 36th Street in Panama City.

The order whose cancellation we demand appears in Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989 of the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue. This order prevents Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion from obtaining the proof it requested, including proof that had been originally accepted within the tax evasion case that the Finance and Treasury Ministry has filed against our complainant. However, this order also rejected any further appeals to the decision to reject proof that was originally accepted. Any new appeals would have to be on new points on which the complainant disagreed.

1. Facts on which this amparo is based

First: Within the pertinent legal term, Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion presented, through its legal representative, Morgan and Morgan, 69 petitions for reconsideration and appeals against an equal number of Finance and Treasury Ministry resolutions, all of them dated 4 April 1989, demanding that our complainant pay income tax on remittances sent abroad.

Second: In the 69 petitions for reconsideration and appeals presented to the Finance and Treasury Ministry against the referent resolutions—which were subsequently merged in a single tax case—the Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion requested that the following be carried out:

1. A visual inspection, with the assistance of experts, of the accounting records, documents, and files of RPC to permit a report on some points.

2. A visual inspection, with the assistance of experts, of Finance and Treasury Ministry files and records.

3. Five (5) orders compelling five Panamanian media corporations, in operation, to exhibit their files, accounting records, and correspondence.

Third: Through an unnumbered ruling issued on 30 May 1989, the Panama Province Regional Administration of Revenues of the Finance and Treasury Ministry resolved to reject the two visual inspections listed above, but approved the five (5) exhibit orders.

Fourth: In due time, Morgan and Morgan presented an appeal for reconsideration and an appeal against the unnumbered ruling of 30 May 1989, which was ratified by Resolution 213-2087 of 12 June 1989 issued by the same regional revenues administration.

Fifth: On 30 June 1989, Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, in exercise of its legal rights, presented to the Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Revenue of the Finance and Treasury Ministry, an appeal against the 30 May 1989 unnumbered ruling, a ruling that as we have indicated was upheld through Resolution 213-2087 of 12 June 1989 by the same Finance and Treasury Ministry revenues administration.

Sixth: Through Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989, the Appeals Commission of the Revenues General Directorate of the Finance and Treasury Ministry resolved to uphold the rejection of the two visual inspections of Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion and Finance and Treasury Ministry records and files and to modify the 30 May 1989 ruling as well as Resolution 213-2087 of 12 June 1989 to reject also the five (5) exhibit orders that had been previously approved.

Seventh: With Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989, the Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Revenue completely prevents correct proceedings because it denies Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion the possibility of an adequate defense based on the evidence that has been requested, the presentation of which had been authorized in the first instance.

Eighth: In rejecting the presentation of the evidence that has been requested, the Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Revenue has denied Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion the right to defend itself because it is not being allowed to carry out visual inspections, with the assistance of experts, at Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, and at the Finance and Treasury Ministry. In addition, the five orders that would compel as many local enterprises to exhibit their files and records have not been approved, despite the fact that such orders had been originally approved, and an expert had been appointed to do the work while representing the General Directorate of Revenue.

Ninth: Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion has requested the presentation of all evidence that may serve to legally defend its rights and for this reason, the decision of the Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Revenue to reject that evidence eliminates the complainant's legitimate right to have a judge verify its statements, as Article 782 of the Judicial Code establishes.

Tenth: The Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Revenue has spared no effort to violate established procedures for the purpose of denying our client an adequate defense, and in doing so, it has ignored legal provisions, such as those established in Article 1133 of the Judicial Code, by flatly rejecting the five (5) exhibition orders that had been approved in a first instance despite the fact that according to that article, appeals should be made only against what is unfavorable to the party making the appeal. [sentence as published]

"II [No Roman No I as published] Violation of Constitutional Provisions

"The action being challenged is in violation of Articles 32 and 50 of the National Constitution which contain the universal principles of due legal process.

"There has been direct violation of the precepts contained in Articles 32 and 50 of our Constitution because the proceedings initiated against the Corporacion Panamena de Radifusion, S. A. have not been carried out according to existing legal procedures since the Appeals Commission of the Finance Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue has issued an injunction [una orden de no hacer] against our client, denying its legitimate right to defend itself in proceedings initiated against it, and withholding from it all of the evidence requested over the course of those proceedings.

"Not only is the arbitrary action committed by the Appeals Commission in Resolution 205-34 in violation of due process, in that it denies our client its right to a legitimate defense, ignoring provisions such as Article 782 of the Judicial Code; more seriously, Resolution 205-34 of 2 August 1989 applies an injunction against our client by denying it a right already granted in an unnumbered ruling dated 30 May 1989 and confirmed by Resolution 213-2087 to carry out five (5) visual inspections in local Panamanian companies. "By its final rejection of all the evidence, including the five (5) visial inspections that were initially approved, the Appeals Commission has violated our client's right and privilege of defending itself within due process in line with the legal procedures established in the Judicial Code, and has thereby violated the constitutional principles enshrined in the abovementioned Articles 32 and 50 of the National Constitution."

This high corporate body of justice has reiterated in innumerable rulings that this special amparo may be utilized only when government officials issue arbitrary orders that run contrary to constitutional provisions and that are so serious as to merit the restitution of a supreme right that has been violated, and this only when no ordinary remedies to the violation exist. Moreover, Article 2606, No 4, prohibits this body from making pronouncements on the viability of same [as published], since the order being challenged was issued by an agency with jurisdiction in the subject area (tax law).

In view of the aforegoing, the Supreme Court of Justice, in plenum, administering justice in the name of the Republic and by authority of the law, disallows the present special amparo filed by the Corporacion Panamena de Radiodifusion, S.A., against the Appeals Commission of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Directorate of Revenue for the reasons outlined in the explanatory portion of this ruling.

To be copied and published:
Rafael A. Dominguez
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Dilio Arcia T.
Rodrigo Molina (with reservations) [con salvamento de voto]
Marisol M. Reyes de Vasquez
Jerry Wilson Navarro
Manuel Jose Calvo
Jose G. Broce B., secretary general

Taiwan Consulate in Colon Given Upgrade

PA2108194689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Because of the importance which the Government of the Republic of China gives to the City of Colon due to the significant increase in the Colon Free Zone operations, the consulate of this sister nation has been upgraded to a consulate general. Henry Liu, the new diplomat appointed to this high-ranking position, stated this during a courtesy visit to the Colon Free Zone. Colon Free Zone Deputy General Manager (?Ramona Eiter) and Olga Stuart, chief of the publicity and marketing department, welcomed the new consul general, who was accompanied by former Consul Shiun Kie.

Argentina

Menem To Speak at UN, Hold Talks With Bush

PY2108153489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1134 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Aug (DYN)—Diplomatic sources have announced that President Carlos Menem will hold private talks with President George Bush, and then 3 days later will address the UN General Assembly on 25 September.

This trip will be one of President Menem's most important activities abroad for the rest of this year, not disregarding his address before the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade.

The sources said that it is almost certain that Menem will meet with President Bush twice on 22 September—for protocol reasons and for a private talk.

According to plans, Menem will travel to the United States on 21 September with a delegation of nearly 20 people.

Before returning to Argentina, possibly on 27 September, Menem will attend a banquet that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will give for the heads of state who will be in New York at that time.

Menem Comments on Falklands Talks, Other Issues

PY2208022089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0115 GMT 22 Aug 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Aug (TELAM)—Tonight, President Carlos Menem described as "mere rumors" the reports published over the weekend that he will make a definitive decision about the military issue within the next 15 days.

In a brief statement to the press upon departing Government House, Menem said: "They are all just rumors." He added that the issues of "time, terms, deadlines, and procedures," are all "decisions to be made exclusively by the president."

Regarding the Malvinas issue and the recently established contacts with Great Britain, Menem said: "These are advance talks." He added: "Essentially it is necessary to establish diplomatic relations. The rest will follow."

Menem stated: "For the time being, this is the objective of the talks. This is the attitude that the two countries have taken. It is something that has been accepted by the great majority of the people—not only by the Argentine people but by the entire international community."

Regarding his trip to Brazil, which starts tomorrow, Menem said there are great expectations for the results of this trip." He added: "We are doing a good job regarding integration with Brazil, which will be the basis for integration with other Latin American countries."

About the current floods, Menem said that the situation "is under control" and that measures are being taken to provide "all that is necessary for the affected people to overcome this emergency."

Attorney General Tenders Resignation

PY2108212389 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Aug 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Attorney General Andres Dalessio, who is also the Supreme Court prosecutor, resigned last week to give President Carlos Menem the "freedom to appoint a person of his trust to this post."

This was announced by government sources, who added that Dalessio tendered his resignation last Friday and it was accepted by President Menem.

Dalessio was appointed prosecutor in November 1987, replacing Juan Octavio Gauna. At that time Dalessio was a judge of the Buenos Aires Federal Appellate Court. [passage omitted]

New Law Allows Illegal TV, Radio Stations

PY2108190389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Aug (NA)—The approval of a State-Reform law, which in its Article 65 authorizes for 180 days the legalization of illegal radio and television stations, has prompted the "ghostly" appearance of Channel 12-Brisas in Mar del Plata and of Channel 12 in Santiago del Estero.

Simultaneously, several clandestine FM radio stations have reappeared on the air, hoping for legalization by officials of the Federal Committee for Broadcasting (COMFER).

In Mar del Plata, where Channels 8 and 10 are well known to the people, Channel 12-Brisas appeared on the air on Saturday afternoon.

The Santiago del Estero newspaper EL LIBERAL has published a note reporting that Channel 12 has run movies between 2000 and 2200 every night since last Wednesday, and that no one knows who is responsible for these transmissions.

In that city, where only Channel 7, Private Teleimage (cable), and TVC (cable), have been operating, 18 low-frequency FM stations suddenly appeared, transmitting programs on religion to popular music. They are competing with the established LV 11 and Radio Nacional.

According to an estimate by the Argentine Free Broadcasters Association, there are 2,000 illegal low-frequency FM stations, which are commonly called "pirates," trying to compete with the authorized radio stations.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora To Address UNGA on 28 Sep

PY2208033089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Report by Facundo Hurtado]

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora has officially announced that he will address the UN General Assembly on 28 September and that he will touch on specific international issues, primarily those affecting countries of this region.

According to Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde, the Bolivian Government attaches high significance to the UN General Assembly and President Paz will request that the developed countries support the Bolivian effort to achieve greater economic stability. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Official Discusses Trade Relations With U. S.

PY2208024489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima will travel to the United States to try to improve Brazilian-U.S. trade relations.

Flecha de Lima said he will visit Washington to follow up on the results of the contacts made in Japan between Presidents George Bush and Jose Sarney, both of whom agreed on the need to maintain more positive trade relations.

In this spirit, Flecha de Lima will contact U.S. Government officials, mainly Pentagon officials. He will try to secure the removal of Brazil from the list of countries accused of damaging the United States through medical patent abuses.

Now, however, the main topic in Brazilian-U.S. trade relations is the U.S. Commerce Department's refusal to transfer super computer technology to Brazil, because Brazil is suspected of being able to develop nuclear weapons.

[Begin Flecha de Lima recording] It has lately become more difficult for Brazilian industry to gain access to highly developed technology. We have always insisted on seeking a solution to this problem without harming the development of a country like Brazil. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry secretary general will also attend the OAS meeting in the United States.

Saudi Arabia To Purchase 318 Osorio Tanks

PY2108152189 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Aug 89 Economic Section p 3

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] Brasilia—The Saudi Arabian Government has decided to purchase 318 EE-TI Osorio tanks manufactured by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc] in Sao Paulo. The $2.2-billion (9.4 billion new cruzados) contract will be signed within 10 weeks. According to a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source, "this time period is necessary because we have discussed 98 percent of the topics, but there is still 2 percent—details—to be adjusted."

This is one of the largest export deals achieved by a Brazilian enterprise, and it is a deal that will increase if the Saudi Government decides on a second order of these tanks worth $4.5 billion (19 billion new cruzados) in 1992.

Saudi Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al al Sa'ud (the brother of King Al Sa'ud) secretly released this information on Monday to Brazilian Ambassador in Riyadh Ney do Prado Diequez and ENGESA President Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro. The ambassador immediately sent a report to Itamaraty, and Planalto Palace was immediately informed of this fact by the military household chief.

However, ENGESA has not been granted all of the bids. The Saudi experts have decided to divide their initial order, estimated at 600 tanks. Thus, they will also purchase 250 U.S. M1-A1 Abrams assault tanks, supplied by General Dynamics. (This model was defeated by Osorio tanks in field tests in 1987 and was delegated to second place. Since then, political and economic pressures on these selections have been intense). The total cost of the order is equal to that of the Brazilian group, although the number of tanks is much lower. The price of the tank used by the U.S. Armed Forces is substantially higher.

As of September 1990 (or 1 year after the contract is signed), ENGESA will begin delivery of the EE-TI, renamed the Al-Fahd in Saudi Arabia. Al-Fahd means "Leopard," but it is also the king's name. All units should be ready and in regular use by the end of 1993. The order is for 280 battle tanks equipped with 120 mm cannons and 38 vehicles for mechanical work in the field and training and command tasks. Not including spare parts, components, electronic training centers, and support systems, the average price of each unit is $1.5 million (6.4 billion new cruzados). Part of this fleet will be partially manufactured and assembled at the high-technology industrial area in Jeddah, the country's administrative capital.

The signing of this contract for its greatest undertaking ever comes at a critical moment for ENGESA. Due to the recession in the world defense market and the domestic economic crisis (worsened by the exaggerated

rise in the exchange rate), the company was forced to make heavy investments to reinforce its line of wheeled armored cars. To manufacture the Osorio prototype alone it was necessary to hire 300 engineers and spend $50 million.

Debt Payments to Paris Club 'Regularized'

PY1808224389 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Aug 89 p 19

[Excerpt] Brasilia—After yesterday's 3-hour meeting with U.S. Treasury Assistant Secretary David Mulford, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega stated that Brazil this week regularized delayed payments to the Paris Club, which amount to $800 million. When remittances of foreign currency abroad were restricted, Brazil had delayed debt payments that fell due on 30 June and in early July. [passage omitted]

Phones Interconnect With Paraguayan Towns

PY1908011389 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Summary] Brazilian and Paraguayan cities along the border in the Mato Grosso do Sul region will interconnect their phone networks. A document of agreement was signed in Ponta Pora by Silva Araujo, the president of a subsidiary of Telebras—Brazilian Telecommunications Inc—and Emilio Villasanti, the director of the department of international affairs of the Paraguayan administration of telecommunications. The following towns will join their phone networks: Salto del Guaira with Mundo Novo, Capitan Bado with (Coronel Sapucaia), Pedro Juan Caballero with Ponta Pora, Bella Vista with Bela Vista do Mato Grosso do Sul, and Isla Margarita with Porto Murtinho.

Chile

Pinochet Blames Rights Groups for Terrorism

PY2208020289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Commenting on the murder of Army Lieutenant Roberto Zegers Riuz by subversives, President Pinochet said that it was a reply from terrorists who are protected by those gentlemen who claim to promote human rights.

Pinochet made these remarks during a ceremony at the Army Aviation Command organized by Carabineros on the occasion of his 16th anniversary as Army commander in chief.

Commenting on the cowardly murder of Lt Zegers, Pinochet said:

[Begin recording] This is a reply, gentlemen, from subversives and terrorists protected by those gentlemen who claim to promote human rights; that is, who promote human rights when doing so will benefit Marxists and terrorists, but who turn a blind eye when the victim is a member of the Armed Forces who is defending the country's freedom. [end recording]

Pinochet noted that he found stumbling blocks along the way, but that the professional and spiritual support he received from the Carabineros and from the other national defense forces encouraged him to continue.

He added that, despite all the efforts of the Carabineros and the defense forces, some subversive groups are unfortunately still active in the country. These groups have attacked primarily Carabineros personnel.

Pinochet added: No matter what circumstances we may have to face in the future, we will be able to successfully face them together.

During the ceremony, Carabineros Director Rodolfo Stange presented Pinochet with a replica of the saber of General Carlos Ibanez del Campo, the founder of the Carabineros. Attending the ceremony were the military junta members, cabinet ministers, and other civilian and military officials.

More on Attack at Tobalaba

PY2108200589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The search for the three extremists who fled last night after an armed clash with personnel of the Army Aviation Command has not yet yielded results. The clash caused the death of an Army officer and an extremist. This information was disclosed by Colonel Aquiles Navarrete Izarnotegui, the head of the Army Aviation Command, during a news conference held at the Army Aviation Command headquarters at Tobalaba Airport.

[Begin Navarrete recording] At 0140 on Sunday, 20 August, two explosives were heard in the south-eastern sector of the Tobalaba Airport. Two LAW launchers, activated by a clockwork device, were found intact inside a hangar of the Aeromundo enterprise.

At 2330 the same day, sentries observed suspicious vehicles. Two individuals got out of the vehicles in the same place where the two LAW's were found.

Lieutenant Roberto Zegers Ruiz, who was on duty, went to inspect the area accompanied by a sentry whom he ordered to protect his flank from a nearby ditch. At 2340, Zegers was attacked from behind by an individual who sprung out from some bushes and fired two shots from some 5 meters distance. He then riddled the officer, who lay on the ground, with another 6 shots.

I want to point out that the officer was given no chance to defend himself and was murdered in a most cowardly fashion. The sentry immediately returned the fire of the attacker.

Personnel of the security forces and the homicide brigade have visited the site to carry out the corresponding investigation.

I want to clearly endorse the commander in chief of the Army, who has repeatedly stated that extremism continues to be clearly active. We have seen how these extremists act freely, murdering innocent people in their customary cowardly manner without showing their faces. [end recording]

It has been stated that the identity of the dead extremist has not yet been established and that the 2d Military Court of Santiago is hearing the case.

Army Issues Communique

PY2108154889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Army Public Relations Office]

[Text] Regarding a terrorist attack against a member of the Army Aviation Command, the Army's public relations office hereby reports:

Yesterday, 20 August, at 2330 Army Lieutenant Roberto Zegers Ruiz, an officer in the Army Aviation Command who was accompanied by a corporal of the same unit, detected a suspicious-looking vehicle while patrolling (Arturo Alessandri Palma) Street in La Reina neighborhood. As the two officers were looking over the vehicle, they were attacked by an individual hiding behind some bushes. The individual, wearing an olive green garment, fired his weapon and killed the officer. The corporal accompanying the officer immediately fired his weapon at the fleeing attacker and killed him.

The Army leadership has ordered that the necessary measures provided by the institution's regulations be implemented immediately.

Also, regarding a bomb explosion, the Army public relations office hereby reports:

Yesterday, 20 August, at approximately 2130 a bomb exploded on the corner of Pocuro Street and Antonio Varas Avenue, in front of the residence of Colonel Juan Lucas Figueroa, director of the Army's telecommunications school. Only material damages were reported.

That is all from the Army public relations office.

Aylwin Pledges To Abrogate Laws If Elected

PY1909154689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The opposition presidential candidate, Patricio Aylwin, has reiterated that all the laws enacted during the past few months by the current government will be abrogated if he is elected president of Chile in December and if the center-left coalition that supports him obtains two-thirds of the congressional seats.

Aylwin made this remark at the end of a 1-hour meeting at his home with Peruvian presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa.

Aylwin was asked about the approval of the law on the Central Bank's autonomy.

The opposition candidate said that efforts are being made to tie the hands of the future democratic government, but that the people will give him the Presidency and a majority in congress in order to remove those ties, which he described as antidemocratic. [passage omitted]

Teitelboim Reaffirms Support for Aylwin

PY1808193789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh], has said that the PCCh support for presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin is unconditional, absolute, and strategic.

The PCCh secretary general was commenting on the Christian Democratic Party criticism of the PCCh.

[Begin recording] [Teitelboim, in progress]... because our support is unconditional and absolute, and because, above all, we are interested in the victory of the democratic candidate and the end of the dictatorship.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the criticism of the PCCh that has been leveled by high-ranking leaders [words indistinct]?

[Teitelboim] This criticism must not be discussed now because nothing must obscure our main purpose, that is, all of us marching together, ensuring the full and overwhelming victory of democracy through its single standard bearer—Patricio Aylwin. [end recording]

Ours is a solid, systematic, and strategic support aimed at defeating the dictatorship and ensuring the victory of democracy, Teitelboim added.

The PCCh secretary general described as ridiculous and grotesque the statements made by right-wing sectors, claiming that Patricio Aylwin is a representative of the ultraleft. Those who claim this are completely unrealistic, he added.

Teitelboim said that everyone knows that Aylwin has nothing to do with the ultraleft and that his position is fairly well-known across the country.

Volodia Teitelboim concluded by saying that, despite this type of criticism, the opposition's standard bearer will achieve an overwhelming victory in the elections scheduled for 14 December 1989.

Supreme Court Acquits Four Communist Leaders

PY1908025889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Claudio Espejo report]

[Text] The First Supreme Court has definitely acquitted four Communist Party leaders who had been accused of promoting violence. They are Mireya Baltra, Guillermo Sherping, Americo Zorrilla, and Jose Sanfuentes.

The members of the First Supreme Court have unanimously rejected an Interior Ministry appeal of a ruling by the Santiago Second Appellate Court, which had previously decided to acquit the four.

These Communist leaders had initially been convicted after the Interior Ministry had accused them of violating Article 6, Paragraph F of the State Internal Security Law, citing a December 1988 news conference in which they released results of the 15th Communist Party Congress.

Constitutional Amendments Law Published

PY1808160489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Official Gazette has published the law that amends the Constitution. The law bears the signatures of President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and interior Minister Carlos Caceres.

The new law, No 18,825, contains the 54 amendments to the Constitution that were approved by 85 percent of the voters in the plebiscite on 30 July 1989.

The promulgated law will be added to the official text of the Chilean Constitution, which was approved in March 1980 by 67.5 percent of the voters. [passage omitted]

Electoral Service Rejects Monckeberg's Candidacy

PY2208025289 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Electoral Service has rejected the presidential candidacy of Fernando Monckeberg, who will have 10 days to appeal this decision. The Electoral Service claims that 13 percent of the people who signed petitions for Monckeberg's candidacy already are members of other political parties. This decision is based on Paragraph 3, Article 17 of Law No 18,700. Fernando Monckeberg's candidacy is independent.

The Electoral Service has also rejected 107 candidates for deputy. Those candidates have 3 days to appeal the Electoral Service's decision.

Colombia

'Aggressive' Antidrug Operations Country-Wide

PA2108205789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Report by Oscar Galvis]

[Text] The most aggressive operations continue throughout the country against drug lords and drug trafficking. The authorities have raided property owned by Pablo Escobar and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

Early this morning the Army seized the installations of the Guaymaral Airport, located north of Bogota. Members of the 13th Brigade raided several hangars in the private airport at Guaymaral, located on Bogota's northern freeway. Several airplanes and helicopters were impounded while the authorities ascertained their owners' names and usage of the aircraft.

The actions are part of the largest offensive ever carried out by the authorities against the bands of criminals operating in the country, following Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento's murder.

The Ministry of National Defense reported that 500 raids have led to the arrest of 10,398 persons and the seizure of 620 weapons, 1,051 vehicles, and 4 motor boats. The raids were conducted in lands owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria. Fifty-two people were arrested and luxury vehicles and heads of cattle were seized at one of his farms, Hacienda Napoli. Several military operations were also conducted on three farms owned by Pablo Rodriguez Gacha, located in Pacho, Cundinamarca.

The operations are currently under way in Bogota. Several tanks were found in a soccer school owned by soccer player Mario Van Emerack. According to the authorities the tanks were used to process cocaine. Another raid was carried out at a club in northern Bogota. A modern communications system was found on the premises and authorities said it was used for contacts to send cocaine abroad. The 13th Brigade troops continue to carry out new raids in Pacho, Cundinamarca.

Meanwhile, Colombia for the first time used the word "war" when requesting an urgent OAS meeting, scheduled for this afternoon. Colombia will request international solidarity in its struggle against drug trafficking.

Drug 'Comptroller' Caught

PA2108220389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2115 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 21 Aug (DPA)—Eduardo Martinez Romero, the alleged "comptroller" of the Medellin Cartel, was captured by Colombian authorities today during the raid on a farm in the northern part of the country, it was reported in Bogota.

It was learned that the arrest of Martinez Romero, the most important one since the Army and Police launched an offensive against the drug trafficking mafia last Saturday, occurred on a farm near Tolu Municipality in Sucre Department.

About 24 people were also arrested along with the Medellin Cartel member. The cartel is the largest world cocaine trafficking organization, which staged a series of violent actions last week.

In fact, in less than 48 hours, mercenaries of that criminal organization assassinated Magistrate Carlos Valencia Garcia, Antioquia Police Commander Colonel Waldemar Franklin Quintero, and Senator and presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan, who according to the polls, was the favorite to succeed Virgilio Barco Vargas as president.

Martinez Romero, one of the drug traffickers most wanted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), had managed to evade a plan to capture him in Panama City last 29 March.

Unofficial reports in Bogota indicate that the well-known mafia member could be the first to be extradited to the United States, in keeping with the Colombian Government's new provisions adopted in view of the wave of violence. These provisions authorize the extradition of drug traffickers to other countries without having to go through the justice tribunals.

According to official reports, more than 11,000 people connected with the mafia have been arrested in the intense operations carried out by the Colombian Army and police, in the largest offensive ever launched by Colombian authorities against the drug trafficking bands.

The actions are being carried out especially in the departments of Antioquia, Cundinamarca, and Valle del Cauca, where elite patrols have taken over extensive and swank properties owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the "drug lords" of the Medellin Cartel. Reports today indicate that one of the private homes belonging to Rodriguez Gacha, alias "the Mexican," was raided in Bogota.

Secret Report Contains Dossiers on Drug Leaders

PA1908135889 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Aug 89 pp 1a,8a

[Text] Contrary to popular belief, the government could, in a matter of just a few weeks, destroy most of the framework of the drug cartels in the country, according to a secret report that compiles the results of 5 years of fighting against drug trafficking.

This report, in contrast to others, does not list the number of laboratories destroyed, people captured, or tons of cocaine seized.

The secret report, entitled "Dossier on the Drug Cartels," and bound in black leather, is divided into 10 chapters and is about 45 pages long. Each chapter deals with one the "godfathers" of the drug trade: Pablo Escobar Gavira, Juan David Ochoa Vasquez, etc.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding characteristics of the report is that although very brief, each piece of information stated in the chapters corresponds to one typewritten line—for example, owner of the Ninfa discotheque—represents a long list on the computer showing information the authorities have gathered: date of construction, date of purchase, real estate number, real costs, "owners," incidents, and other movements.

Investigations do not end there, however. The report's outstanding feature is the identification of at least 1,000 people who work for the seven men who the U.S. Government has identified as the seven Colombian godfathers of the international drug trade.

The payroll includes everyone from foremen and former members of the F-2 [Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics Department], the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], and the Armed Forces, to pilots, engineers, and experts in the most varied fields of knowledge. The payroll includes, above all, 600 men within the drug organization definitely assigned to the movement of money, transporting and storing cocaine, and ensuring the smooth operation of the most powerful criminal industry of the century.

The payroll also includes many professionals who, until recently, worked for security agencies and other government organizations.

The "dossier" on the cartels details the amount of properties, equipment, airplanes, vehicles, and weapons owned by each trafficker. It also includes the identity of those who, sheltered under what authorities label as lax laws, have gradually placed themselves at the cartel's service.

The seven traffickers own, just in real estate—from haciendas to private schools and companies—more than 700 properties.

According to authorities, the Cali Cartel owns more than 800 registered weapons.

One of the investigators said that, "In all these cases, licenses have been issued under the law to 'legally' constituted firms."

The Cali Cartel also owns 100 sets of communications equipment and an equal number of frequencies. The equipment has been legally imported and the frequencies have been legally authorized.

The properties owned by Jose Santa Cruz and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela (almost 260) are greater then a chain of drugstores—there are several chains of La Rebaja Drugstores. They own gigantic silos, cattle ranching firms, and investment companies. They also own several apartment buildings, educational foundations, and computer firms.

The report states: "In each case, the property was legally registered under the name of someone working for the cartel."

Authorities have identified more than 50 of Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela's bodyguards. More than 450 people have been identified as directly connected with the cartel's illegal activities. The report states that "these are the men who serve as a front in registering property and constituting firms, as well as in handling the operations successfully."

For example, authorities now know that Santa Cruz Londono is the main stockholder of a bank in Panama. He also owns a landing field vital to the transport of drugs. This landing field was built legally in Central America.

Officials say that "the organization's infrastructure is so good that we have identified at least 150 vehicles, ranging from 4-wheel drive trucks, Renaults, and motorcycles, to airplanes, owned by the drug traffickers but registered under the name of private firms."

The Medellin Cartel

The government has even more revealing information on the enormous economic power and sophisticated organization consolidated by another drug cartel.

Pablo Escobar Gavira alone owns more than 150 units of real estate, according to authorities. He owns apartment buildings, luxurious office buildings, discotheques, private security agencies, freight companies, farms, and parking garages. He also owns firms registered as investment or real estate companies.

The other members of the organization manage the remaining fronts. According to the report, which contains even the registry number of each plane and helicopter, Jorge Luis Ochoa uses 50 airplanes through indirect fronts. His brother Juan David uses at least 24 more.

Meanwhile, according to authorities, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha has virtually cordoned off Bogota. Investigators have discovered that he owns about 100 farms in the municipalities of Cundinamarca, Tolima, Antioquia, and Boyaca.

According to one investigator, "If he takes over the mines, the Middle Magdalena area will be virtually under his control."

The Contacts

Authorities have identifed several of the drug traffickers' closer contacts, the so-called "big fish," and have acceptable descriptions of their individual activities. The police even know the telephone numbers used by the drug syndicate in Colombia and abroad.

The police say: "We even know the identities of the women some traffickers contact and the activities of many other people who serve the Mafia."

The report asks the everlasting question: Why are there so few arrests? However, the answer to that question has changed.

Those responsible for the struggle against drugs are sure that as long as there are no anti-mafia laws, like those adopted in Italy, the battle is lost.

One of the investigators says: "We need a law that will allow us to bug telephones, conduct raids, and carry out arrests without having to wait for a judge to evaluate 'the scant' evidence that we have. Otherwise, it will be impossible to arrest the drug traffickers' contacts."

He said: "At present, if we bug a telephone based only on our evidence, without getting a judge's order, we would be violating the law, and to make matters worse, we could not use the recording as evidence."

He adds: "We need far-reaching laws on impounding ill-gotten fortunes and estates. Otherwise, everyone will just continue to conceal their property under legal means, and we will never be able to prove the real ownership of the properties."

UC-ELN Communique on Temporary Cease-Fire

PA2208020789 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0049 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Communique issued "in the camps of the new Colombia" by the Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation, UC-ELN, to the National Oil Commission in August 1989—specific date not given]

[Text] Distinguished Commissioners:

The efforts to democratize the debate on the oil policy is a new effort you are making despite the government stubbornness to not participate in the debates you are holding. This is a path along which there should be no steps backwards. It is suitable to the interest of the fatherland to continue the proposed debate and to adopt various mechanisms so that the government [words indistinct] the date to hold the national oil forums. As we had informed you, the forums should be held in Barrancabermeja, the site of origin of the oil struggle. The great oil forum should become a historic event for the national interest.

We believe that once the cycle of regional forums has concluded, the process should be [?completed]. We hereby notify you that beginning on 25 August, we are declaring a temporary cease-fire in our attacks against the ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] oil installations. This seeks to provide a greater feasibility in the debate on oil and to have a forum that truly represents the interest of the nation [words indistinct] for the country. We reserve ourselves the right to attack the Cano-Limon-Covenas pipeline and the properties of the multinational oil corporations.

We will be awaiting the date when the great national oil forum will be held, when we will submit our proposals [words indistinct] this good will patriotic action [words indistinct] and the political determination to achieve these anti-imperialist objectives.

Sincerely yours,
Manuel Perez Martinez, in charge of political affairs;
Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, in charge of military affairs;
Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation
Colombia For Workers! Not A Step Backwards! Liberation or Death!

7 Policemen Killed in Huila Bomb Attack

PA2108222489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] One noncommissioned police officer and six policemen in a police van were killed on the night of 20 August following a terrorist attack in Colombia Municipality, north of Huila Department. The van was blown up, and the policemen aboard were killed instantly.

Government Establishes Embassy in Fiji

PA2008233789 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 10

[Summary] The government has established an embassy in Fiji and appointed Antonio Puerto Tovar, the current ambassador to Australia, as the new ambassador to that country. In addition, it appointed Eduardo Barajas Sandoval, ambassador to Greece, as the new ambassador to Albania.

Paraguay

Rodriguez on Meeting With Senator Lugar

PY1908191089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Shortly after arriving in Paraguay, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar met with President General Andres Rodriguez at his private residence. [passage omitted] At the end of the meeting, Gen Andres Rodriguez talked about the issues discussed:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] I conveyed to him the Paraguayan Government's concern about our country's social and economic problems.

I did not cry to him, but I expressed to him the Paraguayan Government's desire to receive concessions from its friends, and especially from the United States, the leading democratic country. We want the United States to support our programs, especially our social and economic programs.

Our social priorities you know perfectly well: agrarian reform, inexpensive housing, health, education. Those are the priorities of the Paraguayan Government for its people.

I believe that Senator Lugar will convey my desires and my concerns to his government, to President Bush. I fully trust that we will receive assistance so that we can provide our people with the jobs—employment, of course—and the inexpensive houses that will enable Paraguayan families to enjoy the well-being and happiness that they, like all human beings, deem necessary.

[Reporter] What about trade benefits, General?

[Rodriguez] We still cannot talk about trade benefits, because they still have that small barrier, barring some of our exports, some of our products.

Incidentally, I think that last year or the year before last they implemented a measure that canceled that benefit [not further explained]. I am sure, however, that with their current willingness we will again get that benefit. [end recording]

U.S. Envoy Dislikes 'Sensitive Questions'

PY2108130689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] It is obvious that U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay Timothy Towell does not like **sensitive questions, and this was proved once again during the news conference yesterday** (the only news conference) that was granted to local media by Republican Senator Richard Lugar.

When the journalists mentioned the worrisome issue of our foreign debt, and when they asked Lugar about the concrete steps the United States would take to help Paraguay, taking into account the serious difficulties that the debt has caused for Third World countries, **Towell made a gesture to Embassy Information Secretary Oscaldo Cazenave ordering him to end the conference.**

Consequently, despite Lugar's good predisposition to answer all questions, **the public has once again been left "in the dark" regarding this serious problem.**

Uruguayan Official Meets With President Rodriguez

PY1908160089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Aug 89 p 16

[Text] During an special audience held yesterday at Government Palace, Uruguayan Presidential General Secretary Miguel Angel Semino reiterated the invitation

of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti to Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez. Semino, who arrived in Asuncion on 17 August, told General Rodriguez that he is impressed with the efforts being made in the country to build a democracy with the participation of all sectors.

Semino conveyed President Sanguinetti's special greetings to General Rodriguez, who cordially thanked him.

On reiterating President Sanguinetti's invitation to General Rodriguez, Semino said: "I have just told President Rodriguez that we will welcome him in my country with great pleasure; the doors of my country are open to him. You know that government affairs sometimes make it difficult to comply with agendas. I delivered to President Rodriguez an invitation to visit Uruguay and President Sanguinetti's wish to meet him."

Arrest of Former Social Security Head Ordered

PY1708141889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Aug 89 p 16

[Excerpt] Criminal Court Judge Eladio Duarte Carballo has ordered the arrest of General Hugo Dejesus Araujo, former director of the Social Security Institute (IPS), and the beginning of an investigation into his administration of the IPS. According to court sources, Judge Duarte signed Court Resolution 813 ordering that Araujo be confined to a military unit.

The judge remitted a writ to the Armed Forces Command to ensure that the order is carried out.

Judge Duarte says in the resolution that Araujo will be tried on charges stemming from a complementary report to the audit performed on the IPS which found that "crimes had been committed" in the administration of the institution. [passage omitted]

Police Reportedly Clash With Armed Peasants

PY1708225089 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Armed peasants have reportedly clashed with police forces in Puerto Indio, Alto Parana Department. Dionisio Nicolas Frutos, president of the chamber of deputies' Justice, Labor, and Human Rights Committee, made the following report:

[Begin recording] We have received a specific request for this committee to visit Puerto Indio, where there has apparently been an armed clash. According to the report, a police unit went to Puerto Indio with a court order and approximately 50 peasants armed with shotguns, machetes, and other weapons violently repelled them. We do not know if there were any casualties. This committee will leave for Puerto Indio tomorrow at the request of the government representative in that department to check on what really happened. [end recording]

Congress Approves Land Expropriation Law 17 Aug

PY1808162689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Aug 89 p 8

[Excerpt] Acting in the public interest, Congress yesterday approved a law expropriating 7,000 hectares of "arable land" in Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena. The land belongs to the Paraguayan Union company. The Chamber of Deputies by majority approved the law, which had already been passed by the Senate. Colorado Party Deputy Jose Antonio Moreno Rufinelli, supported by his colleagues Martin Palumbo, Bartolome Sanchez, and Jose Pappalardo, led the opposition to the measure. The law has now been submitted to the executive branch for promulgation.

Prior to the discussion of the law in the Chamber of Deputies, it was approved by the Constitutional Affairs Committee, the Rural Affairs Committee, and the Finance and Budget Committee. Surprisingly, the discussion of whether the law should be approved was primarily among members of the Colorado Party bloc, and almost exclusively among members of the party's traditionalist sector. Peasants from Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena were present at the Chamber of Deputies session. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic, Consular Institute Director Installed

PY1909154889 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Aug 89 p 16

[Summary] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Saguier Caballero yesterday morning installed Juan Bautista Rivarola Paoli as the new director of the Diplomatic and Consular Institute.

Peru

Minister Confirms Resignation; To Run for Mayor

PY2208032889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Education Minister Mercedes Cabanillas today confirmed her resignation. She is resigning to devote all her time to her electoral campaign as candidate for mayor of Lima.

Following a ceremony at the National Stadium, where she delivered sports equipment to representatives of about 200 schools from Lima and El Callao, Cabanillas said that she resigned to uphold ethical principles and to avoid gaining an improper advantage over the other candidates. [passage omitted]

Liberty Movement Registers With Electoral Court

PY2208120689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Mario Vargas Llosa, presidential candidate of the Democratic Front, FREDEMO, has again stated that he cannot promise labor stability if he is elected president. He said that this will not be necessary to begin an economic takeoff in the country.

He made this statement after the Liberty Movement officially registered as an independent group with the National Electoral Court. Vargas Llosa also said that he will not raise objections to the nominations of Mercedes Cabanillas and Enrique Bernales as candidates for mayor of Lima.

The Liberty Movement today officially registered with the National Electoral Court as a new political party. Present at the ceremony were some independent congressmen; Dr Mario Vargas Llosa, the FREDEMO presidential candidate for the 1990 election; architect Miguel Uruchaga; and several members of the Liberty Movement, which today became a new political party.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is the Liberty Movement a political movement or just an independent civic movement?

[Vargas Llosa] It is an independent political movement. We have registered as an independent group. We have registered with the suport of some 450,000 signatures. We tried to collect 500,000, but we had to expedite the registration because of the electoral deadline for the regional elections. Therefore, we are registering with just 450,000 signatures. Thousands of signatures are being sent to Lima from the provinces, but we had to expedite the registration because the deadline for registration was passing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Argentina Requests Arrest of Montoneros Leaders

PY1708142789 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Argentina has requested the arrest of two well known leaders of the Montoneros terrorist group, who are thought to be living in Montevideo. Their names are: (Roberto Perdia) and Fernando Vaca Narvaja, who together with the imprisoned leader Mario Firmenich were the top chiefs of the Montoneros group in Argentina.

Officials Say Relations With Panama at Low Level

PY2108212289 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 17-23 Aug 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Government officials have told BUSQUEDA that relations with Panama "are not at their best level." This conclusion can also be drawn from the fact that Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma was the only president among those who attended the inauguration of the new Bolivian president early this month who did not meet with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Sanguinetti participated in a meeting at the Brazilian Embassy in La Paz on Sunday, 6 August, also attended by Presidents Jose Sarney of Brazil, Carlos Menem of Argentina, Alan Garcia of Peru, Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay, and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia.

Asked about Panama's exclusion from that meeting, President Sanguinetti said only that Brazil issued the invitations. However, the Panamanian president was also excluded from a similar meeting at the Uruguayan Embassy in Buenos Aires during the inauguration of President Carlos Menem. [passage omitted]

Japanese Finance Ministry To Allow Yen Bond

OW1408100789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 14 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to allow Uruguay to issue a yen-denominated bond for private placement here, ministry officials said Monday.

Under the decision, Uruguay will offer 2.5 billion yen worth of bonds on Tuesday, the first issuance of its kind by a debt-troubled Third World nation in nearly three years, the officials said.

Of the total, 50 percent are to be purchased by the government-run Export-Import Bank of Japan, the officials said.

The five-year bond, carrying a coupon rate of 6.7 percent per annum, will be lead-managed by Nikko Securities Co.

The decision, an exception to the ministry's guidelines, of keeping debt-strapped Third World nations from floating yen bonds here, is in line with the government's 65 billion-yen fund-recycling program announced last month, they said.

The officials said the latest action is in part designed to diversify ways of providing debt-plagued developing nations with funds so as to promote the five-year program.

The bulk of such funds so far have been offered in the form of yen loans by the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the governmental Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

The purchase of half the 2.5 billion yen bond by other government agencies is also being considered, the officials added.

World Bank Grants $65-Million Agriculture Loan

PY1708212489 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 p 14

[Summary] A high-ranking government source told EL DIA on 11 August that the executive branch and the World Bank have signed an agreement on a $65-million loan that will be disbursed over a 5-year period. The source said that $58.8 million will be earmarked for farmers and that the rest of the loan will be used to finance other activities, such as the opening of livestock production training centers in several areas of the country.

Trade Surplus, Reserve Levels Reported
PY1708223689 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 LA SEMANA Section p 14

[Summary] The Central Bank has reported that its net reserves increased by $16 million in June and by $56 million over the first 6 months of 1989. During the same period, the balance of trade registered a surplus of approximately $240 million.

Voter Poll Shows Pacheco Areco, Lacalle Ahead
PY1708224189 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 14 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] According to a Gallup poll, Colorado Party presidential candidate Jorge Pacheco Areco and National Party candidate Luis Alberto Lacalle of the Herrerista faction are the leading candidates. The Broad Front has not been taken into account in this survey.

The poll was conducted in Montevideo, where 44 percent of the people voted for Pacheco Areco, 38 percent for Jorge Battle, and 17 percent did not indicate any preference.

Within the National Party Luis Alberto Lacalle received 45 percent of the vote, followed by Carlos Julio Pereyra with 36 percent and Alberto Zumaran with 15 percent.

Venezuela

Perez on Debt, Panama, Nonaligned Meeting
PA2008200389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0210 GMT 18 Aug 89

[News conference held by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 17 August—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Alberto Garnica of UPI] Good evening, Mr President. If I may, I would like to pose two questions. First, Venezuela insists on obtaining a 50-percent reduction in its estimated $27 billion public debt. If the negotiations in this regard are not successful, what other option is available to the government to confront the social consequences of the economic problems, and how does the government expect to achieve its program of inflation-free sustained growth?

Second, you were one of the promoters of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and you continue to defend them. Do you believe these treaties will be in jeopardy if General Noriega remains in power?

[Perez] Venezuela, all Latin American countries, and all Third World countries must find a definitive solution to the debt problem. We are not talking about a confrontation or nonpayment. We believe that the interest of each country is most important; that no government can act against the most basic interests of its people.

This is absolutely true: In 1930 or 1933, the FRG protested and refused to pay its debt, because the debt was consuming more than 30 percent of its exports. An international court, an appeals court at The Hague, sided with the FRG for suspending payments on its debt under such circumstances. This is a rather old example.

We have not and will not seek a confrontation but a friendly agreement. However, our countries are getting to the point where they will no longer be able to resist the pressure created by debt payments under the current circumstances. I have not grown tired of repeating that Venezuela over the past 5 years has been paying its debt with more than 50 percent of its exports. No country can hold up long under this pressure.

Fortunately, the situation is changing. First, there is a firmer, more responsible, more consistent, and systematic attitude on the part of debtor countries. I am referring to Latin America. There is also a better understanding on the part of the industrialized nations.

In other words, there are extraordinary changes. The Brady Plan—despite all its operational deficiencies—acknowledges the political problem inherent in the debt and that this problem must be treated differently and not in the mechanical fashion of the past 5 years.

Moreover, the IMF now admits that internal adjustments cannot be made in the debtor countries' economies if international aspects of its finances, such as the debt problem, are not first taken care of. In granting credits, it has been decided to earmark a portion of them for debt reduction via agreements with creditor banks.

Therefore, we are facing a different situation. Venezuela will achieve a reduction of its debt or a significant reduction in interest payments. Either of the two options would be a good one. We are talking about a 50-percent debt reduction, because this is the figure that would give Venezuela the opportunity to pay or comply with its international commitments while growing at the same time, as the foreign reporter's question suggests.

We are asking for a 50-percent reduction. We are hoping for and will struggle to obtain it. We do not yet know whether we will get that. Venezuela has not issued an ultimatum. Venezuela cannot say we want this or nothing. There will be a discussion and we will see what happens.

Nevertheless, any agreement should come close to our 50-percent target. Our goal is a 50-percent reduction in our annual service on the debt. It does not matter so much whether a country makes interest payments for 100 years, because the situation of countries is very different than personal finances and debts. The important thing is to ensure that the annual payments-to-national-savings ratio allows us to come up with development plans to confront the country's social problems.

This is a Venezuelan position that has also been adopted by all countries facing this problem. Moreover, the effects of the profound weakening of developing countries' economies are already affecting industrialized countries. President Reagan once said that if Latin America were purchasing from the United States in the 1980's at the same rate it did in the 1970's, the United States would not be facing the huge trade deficit in its international finances.

Industrialized countries are hurt by the loss of our markets and in the long-run this could lead to a breakdown of their economies that could bring about another world recession. Therefore, although it is true that we are tied up by this huge debt and have received inconsiderate treatment, the industrialized countries are now also tied up with us because of the consequences of the nearly total weakening of our economies and the extreme limitations on our ability to import goods.

As for the Panamanian problem, I made statements to the national and international press yesterday. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties are a responsibility of all of Latin America, in fact, of the entire hemisphere, because the United States also has a responsibility for them. Do not forget that I was the promoter of the idea that the treaties be signed before all Latin American presidents, whether or not they were dictators, to make us guarantors of the fulfillment of those treaties. We were all at the OAS headquarters in Washington and signed the treaties with President Carter and General Torrijos. Therefore, we are also responsible for ensuring the validity of those treaties.

I hope that there will be no dilemma of choosing between Noriega or the treaties, because that would be unacceptable. I do hope that the talks, which are taking place under the auspices of the OAS commission and its secretary, General Baena Soares, this week—prior to an OAS meeting on 23 August—will reach an agreement to really offer opportunities for a fast-moving democratic process, new elections, and a new government this year in Panama. And, of course, in keeping with Panamanian law, there should also be a change in the leadership of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

That is what all democratic Latin Americans are hoping for. We could say that the entire democratic world hopes that this problem will be resolved in this way. Once this happens, of course, the United States, in solidarity with this decision, should support this process to facilitate a transition in Panama. That is our view. [passage omitted]

[Jorge Luna of PRENSA LATINA] Good evening, Mr President. My question is on the upcoming summit of the Nonaligned Movement, and in general on Venezuela's entrance into that organization. What can be expected and what will Venezuela's role be in the activities of that movement, not only at the summit, but in the organization in general? Also, what are the chances of your offering to host the next summit in Caracas?

[Perez] Well, we live in an increasingly interdependent world. I have repeatedly said that the solution to our problems will not be found within our borders since finding these solutions depends on the influence that weak, poor, or Third World countries—as we are called—have when major international decisions are made, as our fate depends on these decisions.

This can be seen in the foreign debt problem, in the setting of prices for our raw materials, in the protectionist measures adopted by industrialized nations against our products. In fact, this has created an abnormal and absurd situation because we are asked to pay, but we are not paid fair prices for our products so that we can obtain the money to pay, and barriers are established so that we cannot sell what we produce.

This situation makes it necessary for countries that are not involved in any economic or military confrontation to organize ourselves, not to confront the industrialized or powerful world, but to increase our negotiating power in order to achieve a simple objective: international justice. Well, as you know—it would take too long to explain—the birth of the Nonaligned Movement was stimulated by the beginning of the Cold War. It was a way in which our countries—which had nothing to do with the confrontation between the superpowers—tried to defend our right to live in peace in the world. That is the essential story of this movement.

Venezuela should be a member of this movement. We tried to join the movement in the past, but an accidental circumstance prevented our entrance. Today the doors have been kindly opened to us again, and I will have the honor of attending the summit of heads of state in Belgrade in September. This will be a very important meeting, because it will be an opportunity for leaders of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and also the smallest and less developed European countries to exchange views and plan strategies that later on will be used as guidelines in the Group of 77—which represents developing countries at the United Nations—and at the United Nations itself, as well as at our meetings with the Group of Seven and with the large industrialized countries.

Our presence in the Nonaligned Movement is very important for us, particularly in today's world. In a few years, we will see the EEC market close its doors. What will Latin American, Asian, African countries do? We must start broadening our possibilities in order not to be strangled even more than we are now.

As for what my role will be, it will be one of a democratic leader of a Latin American country who is convinced of the need to unite efforts to reach agreements aimed at achieving international justice, a new international economic order, as we have said many times. Now, regarding the possibility that Venezuela could be the site

of a meeting in 2 or 3 years, I cannot say at this time, because I cannot just say so. There are procedures to be followed. Of course, it would be an honor for Venezuela. [passage omitted]

*** Perez Proposes Pact Against Corruption**
33480246a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
8 Jul 89 p D2

[EL NACIONAL interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by correspondent Ludmila Vinogradoff on 7 July 1989, following the graduation ceremony of cadets and second lieutenants from the Military Academy; first two paragraphs are editorial comment]

[Excerpts] President Carlos Andres Perez proposed on 7 July the signature of an agreement against corruption like the national concerted effort agreement signed between the workers, management, and the government.

At the end of the graduation ceremony for cadets and second lieutenants on the parade ground at the Military Academy, President Perez was interviewed by reporters. [passage omitted]

[EL NACIONAL] It is said that there are many hypocrites where corruption is concerned. What do you think of that?

[Perez] I said in my speech on 5 July, the most important day for our country, that we have to undertake a true crusade against corruption. Action must be taken, and we must not fall into the habit of using the rhetoric of scandal regarding corruption. So that now, rather than just talking about it, we must act. Therefore, I proposed on the day when we signed the historic concerted effort agreement between the workers, management, and the government that now we should sign another historic agreement between the political parties to fight for specific things. One of these things is coordinated and effective action against corruption. Another objective is to give the judicial branch of the government a guarantee, a position appropriate to the judiciary of our national democracy, so that the judicial branch meets the needs of the fatherland and thus other, fundamental aspects of our national life.

The president added that he will commit himself personally to that political agreement, as he also will commit himself to resolving "that problem affecting the doctors in the social security program, which is not a model for any other group of workers in the country."

*** Iturbe: 'Spirit of Cooperation' in Recadi Case**
33480246c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
21 Jul 89 p D-1

[Article by Alba Sanchez: "Tripartite Committee Established To Review Recadi Security Deposits"]

[Excerpt] By decision of the cabinet a tripartite committee composed of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Venezuela, and the Office of the Attorney General has been established which will be charged with concluding the review of the security deposits still pending in the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] case.

As explained by Minister of Finance Eglee Iturbe, in 1983 and 1984 imports were made on an installment basis, and foreign exchange at a preferential rate made available for those imports was subject to security deposits. This system was changed in 1985, but cases remained pending for the processing of 10 percent of the security deposits which were being used.

She stated: "As there was a change in the system, both the banks as well as the Ministry of Finance itself changed over to the new system. The security deposits were being liquidated as the relevant documentation came in. Several months ago my office proposed an operational system to bring this process to an end. However, the committee investigating the Recadi case objected, and the question of the security deposits was left in suspense."

She repeated that the Ministry of Finance has legal authority to complete closing Recadi in a formal sense and to liquidate the whole process of obtaining foreign exchange at a preferential rate, including the question of security deposits. In this connection the cabinet decided to establish the tripartite committee by decree. The Office of the Attorney General is participating because the results of the work of the committee might lead, in some cases, to releasing or collecting on the security deposits. It would be up to the Office of the Attorney General to exercise the rights of the Treasury in such a case. Regarding the participation of the Central Bank of Venezuela, "this has to do with other pending matters which must be resolved."

She continued: "The committee will have a technical secretariat from the Ministry of Finance to complete action on this matter. This matter is one of the most important questions remaining from the system of differential exchange rates from an operative point of view."

An Incident Which Is Over

Regarding the Recadi case, Minister Iturbe was asked about criticism from members of Congress that her office has hampered an investigation. One of the actions presented as evidence of this attitude was that her office prevented access by employees of Congress to her ministry's files.

The minister of finance called this question "an administrative matter which has been resolved."

She stated: "One of the things which members of Congress and judges cannot question is the cooperation which my office has given to these investigations. We have provided to the congressional committee and to the various judges more than 20,000 pages of documents

and on a daily basis we continue to provide information. Within this spirit of cooperation and even beyond our legal obligations we allowed an advisory committee of Congress to be set up in the offices of Recadi so that they might have better access to the necessary documentation and do their work in a more convenient way. That advisory committee is not made up of members of Congress but by employees who advise the members. The committee encountered some problems in handling the information, obtaining files, compelling cooperation, etc. There were various incidents, the last of which was a little more notorious because it involved disrespect for the National Guard, our officials, and me, regarding the legal authority which I have as the minister responsible for the security and custody of the Recadi files. I decided that persons not regularly employed in the archives would not be permitted to enter the file room until we could arrange how the standards for the work of this committee were going to be handled."

She revealed that on 20 July she talked with Luis Guillermo La Riva, the special judge investigating the Recadi case, and with the members of Congress who make up the investigating committee. They agreed to set down a written, formal procedure "and standards which will be respected so that the advisory committee could continue working, with an arrangement to call for documents, but under conditions which would provide for real control."

She stated: "Remember that such information is available there for the Office of the Comptroller, for Congress, and now for the new investigating judges. We must be very careful and have a well organized system for information management to prevent a file or a document from being lost or from being misfiled. This was an administrative incident which, if you wish, was exaggerated a little but which has already been resolved. Once again channels of communication have been established, and the advisory committee is going to continue operating."

At the same time the minister pointed out that the computer diskettes which were the object of this week's dispute were seized by Judge La Riva. She said: "He will have them in his possession until we set up a system for reviewing this information."

She continued: "This is not a matter of covering up information—far from it. It is routine information which has been loaded in the microcomputers of the ministry and which has been transmitted to all of the offices involved, as far as this is concerned. If there is something not available in the Recadi offices, it is hidden documents, because there are so many organizations investigating the situation that the documents which they are exaggerating the most are in the hands of the public." [passage omitted]

Guyana

Hoyte Addresses Eighth Biennial PNC Congress

Speaks on Caricom Relations

FL1508233589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2231 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 15, CANA—Members of Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) were on Tuesday [15 August] called upon to set as one of the PNC's objectives, the locking of Guyana "inextricably into the Caricom (Caribbean Community) arrangement."

"As part of this process, we have to accept that our natural resources are an inseparable part of the regional endowment, the PNC leader, President Desmond Hoyte, told an estimated 3,000 delegates, observers and special guests at the party's eighth biennial congress.

Hoyte added: "Moreover, we must be prepared to broaden our concept of national sovereignty so that effective decision-making within the community can be accommodated and its cohesiveness and viability sustained."

The PNC, Hoyte said in his two-hour address, must be very clear about its duty to Caricom, Guyana's relations, he also stressed, must be woven into the fabric of the wider Latin American and Caribbean region.

"For us, adherence to Caricom must be an article of faith about which we can have no reservations, whatsoever, Guyana's commitment to Caricom, must never be in doubt," he added. The Guyanese leader noted however, that Guyana, situated as it is on the north eastern shoulder of South America and, as a signatory to the Treaty of Amazonian Co-operation, cannot "escape the compulsion of geography."

He noted also that Guyana shares with its contiguous neighbours, Brazil, Suriname, and Venezuela, and other signatories to the Treaty of Amazonian Co-operation, a number of common problems, concerns and interests.

"Given these circumstances, geostrategic considerations require us to cement mutually advantageous, bilateral and multilateral arrangements with our contiguous neighbours and with the member states of the Amazonian group of countries," Hoyte told the gathering at the Sophia Convbention Centre. But, these arrangements, he stressed, must not preclude Guyana frrom continuing initiatives to establish or strengthen its relationships with other countries within this hemisphere and beyond.

Proposes Policy Initiatives

FL1508234989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 15, CANA—The Guyana Government intends to "withdraw the governmental hand" to allow co-operatives "greater freedom to manage their own affairs." This was one of several policy initiatives proposed by President Desmond Hoyte on Tuesday [15 August] in a two-hour keynote address to the eighth biennial congress of his ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

Hoyte also announced that his government was making the necessary arrangements to offer to the public shares in the Guyana Bank of Trade and Industry (formerly Barclay's Bank) and that this principle will be extended to other government entities.

He also spoke about the government's plans to embark on agrarian reform to remove certain difficulties which have led to a degree of frustration among farmers and which hampered the country's agricultural thrust.

He spoke also about government's plans to implement, beginning next year, a number of recommendations related to local government reform and of the government's plans to proceed with law reform to remove discrimination against women, including the enacting of an equal rights bill by the end of this year.

And, on the party front, he advocated new arrangements for selecting party candidates for national and regional elections and for expanding membership of the party's central executive committee to include at least one representative from each of the country's 10 administrative regions.

Dealing with the problems and plans for the cooperative sector, Hoyte told about 3,000 delegates and observers and special invitees that although the local cooperative movement has witnessed some outstanding successes, the cooperative sector has not lived up to expectations.

"I believe that one important reason is the fact that we have tried to promote the sector from above, using a government agency as the instrument. This has led to an attitude of dependency on the part of many cooperators who tend to look to the state to resolve their problems. Such an attitude is a negation of the cooperative spirit which requires the practice of self-reliance and self-help," Hoyte explained.

He said that "given the unprosperous state of the co-operative sector in general," it was his view that it would be in the best interest of the co-operative movement and of the economy, if the governmental hand were to be withdrawn to allow cooperatives greater freedom to manage their affairs and make their own decisions."

But the Guyanese leader added: "This proposal has to do with organisational relationships. It does not in any way mean that government will reduce its commitment to the co-operative sector."

The congress is scheduled to end on Sunday [20 August] with an address to the nation at a public rally by Hoyte, who has led the co-operative republic since 1985.

Cites Economic Recovery Program

FL1608195389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1814 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 16, CANA—Leader of Guyana's ruling People's National Congress [PNC] President Desmond Hoyte has counselled members to mobilize support for government's austerity economic plan, known as the "economic recovery program" [ERP].

In a two-hour keynote address to the PNC's eighth biennial congress, Hoyte also called on members to "motivate the masses in support" of the ERP, which has already sparked strikes. The plan, which included a sharp devaluation of the Guyana dollar, involves the injection of foreign financing by a consortium of countries which include Canada and money from the International Monetary Fund. Hoyte said that the times demanded that members of the party eschewed dogmatism, opened their minds to fresh ideas, and adopted new ways of looking at things. They should also be always willing to examine the bases of their beliefs and test them for continuing relevance and validity, he added.

He said that even as party members accepted the need for change, the following policy positions could not change:

The PNC recognizes the cultural, ethnic, and ideological diversity of the Guyanese society and is, therfore, "implacably opposed" to the establishment of a one-party state in Guyana, "whatever guise such a proposal is put forward";

The PNC is opposed to any kind of intellectual regimentation, ideological uniformity, or economic rigidity;

The PNC utterly rejects racism, intolerance, and bigotry in all their forms and manifestations;

The PNC will not compromise with those who malign Guyana abroad, but will engage and confront them at every turn;

The PNC will never abandon its basic commitment to the masses - particularly to the poor, disadvantaged and underprivileged; and, emancipation of the Guyanese people from the cultural and psychological shackles of the colonial past.

Hoyte said that by putting in place the "tough and difficult" ERP, the PNC had shown that it had the courage to act and to do the right thing because, as a party, the PNC "must always be prepared to give strong, imaginative, and skillful leadership, or get off the political scene." He added that it also needed to continue to take an uncompromising stand against sloth, corruption, and all forms of irregular behavior , and delegates should re-affirm the party's position that "wrong-doers must not find sanctuary in the party".

3 Planning To Overthrow Hoyte To Stand Trial

FL1708122189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In Guyana, three men linked to the People's Progressive Party will stand trial in October for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government earlier this year. The three farmers are accused of conspiring to overthrow the government of President Desmond Hoyte by force.

The defense allege police had kidnapped the men from their homes in May, tortured them for a week, forced them to confess, and then announced their detention publicly. The confession statements were accepted by the court, triggering criticism from opposition parties.

Nicaragua To Close Embassy; Finances Cited

FL1708195889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 17, CANA—Nicaragua will close its nearly 2-year-old embassy in Guyana at the end of September and set up a new embassy in Jamaica, the country's ambassador in Georgetown, Thomas Gordon has announced.

He told the press Wednesday [16 August] that Nicaragua's decision to shift its only diplomatic mission in the English-speaking Caribbean from Guyana to Jamaica primarily was because Nicaragua could no longer afford several missions. Gordon gave as a reason for the proposed move to Kingston Jamaica's relative proximity to Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and greater prospects for commercial relationships and people to people contact. He said Nicaragua had approached the Edward Seaga government before it lost the last elections in Jamaica about opening an embassy there, but the Seaga administration turned down the request. The Manley government has, however, been much more receptive and accomodating, he reported.

Gordon said Guyana-Nicaragua relations are still very good and there is some likelihood, that early next year, a charge d'affaires may be sent to Georgetown. He said that in deciding to close the embassy, which was set up here in October, 1967, the fact that the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat is based in Georgetown, was also taken into account.

Gordon said that Guyana-Nicaragua relations are based on understanding, and continue to be good, and added that the two countries usually work closely on international issues at fora such as the Non-Aligned Movement.

Gordon said Nicaragua has never really relied on public support from individual countries but on support through international groupings such as Caricom and international initiatives such as the Contadora initiative. He said Nicaragua is aware that it is very difficult for individual countries to be wholeheartedly and openly supportive of Nicaragua because of the aggression and hostility to which they are likely to be subjected. He said that in this regard, Cuba was an exception in the region, having itself been subjected to 30 years of total aggression from the United States Administration.

Meanwhile, commenting on recent developments in Nicaragua and the rest of Central America, Gordon said that with the recent signing of the accords of Tela, Honduras, by the five governments of the region, the world can now claim one more victory for peace in Central America. The Tela accords provide for the demobilisation of the U.S.-backed contras who have been waging a costly war to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government led by President Daniel Ortega and for the deepening of national reconciliation and democracy in the troubled region.

Gordon said Nicaragua's elections scheduled for February 25, next year, will be "the most scrutinized in the world" and the overseas observers expected there for the elections will have more of a verifying role. He said that even if the Sandinistas should lose the elections, the important thing is that the latest initiatives should result in an end to the costly war in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan envoy suggested that with Ronald Reagan no longer President of the United States, there is now "a greater openess towards achieving a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis".

Opposition To Ask Carter To Observe Elections

FL2108205089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2128 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, August 19, CANA—Guyana's opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) plans inviting former United States President Jimmy Carter to observe the next general election in Guyana.

PCD spokesman Dr. Cheddi Jagan, a former Guyana premier, told a news conference this week the opposition grouping also plans to invite organisations such as the Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of American States, the Caribbean Community, and the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) to send observers to the elections. Guyana's next poll is constitutionally due by March 1991.

Jagan noted that Carter was an observer at the recent elections in Panama and he has been invited by both the government and opposition parties in Nicaragua, to observe the January, 1990 elections.

Eusi Kwayana, another PCD spokesman, said the presence of Carter's organisation at the elections as an observer "will be very crucial."

The five-member coalition's announcement was made at a news conference summoned to discuss demands for electoral reforms. PCD members persistently allege that the last four national elections and one national referendum held here since 1968 were rigged by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC)—allegations denied by the PNC.

"Our main drive is for free and fair elections to crack up the whole electoral regime and to mobilise public opinion...and, especially, to direct our views to aid donors who are running a terrible risk sinking millions into this country without knowing what is going to happen under the control of a regime that has no mandate...and that can only lead the country from crisis to crisis," Kwayana said.

He said while PCD has not yet decided on a set of minimum guarantees for their participation in the next elections, the sense he has got from discussions within the PCD, is that "one guarantee here or there will not be enough." "We want a whole package of guarantees and a new authority in charge of the elections," Kwayana added.

Jagan said current chairman of the elections commission, Sir Harold Bollers, "must go" and there must be an independent chairman of the commission in addition to the counting of ballots at the place of poll.

The PCD was formed in January, 1986 by opposition political parties shortly after the December 1985 national elections.

TUC, IMF Discuss Devalued Dollar, Wages

FL2208012589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 20, CANA—Representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have listened "attentively and with sympathy" to representations made to them by the Guyana Trade Union Congress (TUC) but they have given no commitments to make the TUC hopeful about any relief for Guyanese workers, a labour spokesman said.

TUC General Secretary Joseph Polydore told CANA that when a TUC delegation met with the IMF representatives last week, among the issues it raised was that of "unsatisfactory levels of wages and salaries following the substantial (70 per cent) devaluation" of the Guyana dollar earlier this year.

He said the TUC delegation which was led by President Frank Andrews, also quoted prices and figures, related the serious problems being experienced by the Guyanese workers and made it clear that the labour movement is "definitely opposed to any further devaluation bearing in mind the havoc which devaluation has already played with the lives of the workers. [no end quote as received] "We urged on them that they recognize the unbearable conditions which have been created by the devaluation but their reaction was that while they appreciated the problems, any remedial measures to be taken must be carried out by the (Guyana) Government which must determine by what means such remedial measures could be undertaken," Polydore added.

He said the IMF officials gave no indications as to whether another devaluation of the Guyana dollar was forthcoming in the near future but, based on the budget presentation by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and on speculation about another devaluation, the TUC felt that it should let its objection be known at this early stage.

Wednesday's [16 August] talks were held at the request of the TUC. They marked the second time for the year that the TUC met with officials of the IMF. "The manner in which the talks went on, was not in any way different to what we have found in the past. They would listen very carefully and very attentively and with sympathy but, the talks would always end on the note that it was the responsibility of the government to make any adjustments within the limits of their own financial circumstances," Polydore told CANA.

But he added: "At least, what we suceeded in doing was to apprise them of the gravity of the situation and of the likely consequences of further disruption that would take place, in case they proceeded with measures that are more exacting on the people."

Suriname

Military Denies Coup Plans, Says Crisis Exists

FL2208134189 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Military leaders in Suriname have denied that they are planning to overthrow the civilian government. The official SURINAMESE NEWS AGENCY, however, says that the military leaders have admitted the existence of a confidence crisis between the military and the government of President Ramsewak Shankar.

Army Chief of Staff Badresseein Sital and Navy Commander (Chas Minals) earlier told journalists the crisis is a direct result of the peace treaty between the government and the Ronnie Brunswijk jungle command. The military claims that the treaty is in violation of the constitution.

The armed struggle which Ronnie Brunswijk started in 1986 against the military regime of Army Commander Desi Bouterse has caused at least 500 lives.

Rebels Claim Army Moving Toward Insurgents
FL1808213689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] A spokesman for the armed opposition group in Suriname has warned that the Army is moving toward insurgent positions, which is considered to be a violation of the peace treaty signed between the government and the guerrillas. In statements made to DE WARE TIJD newspaper, Stanley Rensch, counselor of Ronnie Brunswijk—leader of the so-called jungle command—said troops are moving toward a guerrilla base in Botopasi. Rensch added that the Armed Forces are supplying weapons to several Indian towns and urging the people to reject the peace accord and rebel against the government.

For his part, Army Commander Badressein Sital said Rensch was a liar and stressed there is no provision banning the movement of the Army in the conflict area, the official Suriname News Agency reported.